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Mindanao ethnic sounds in grand send-off for King

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

WHILE MINDANAO BURNED AND MOURNED its dead following the outbreak of hostilities between government troops and Moro rebels, the music and sounds of Mindanao enthralled music lovers and admirers of Lucresia R. Kasilag who filled the CCP Main Theater

MINDANAO, A2 ›

Jamaican superman by a mile in 200

BEIJING—SOME CALL HIM FLASH GORdon. But the man himself says, no way, he is simply Lightning Bolt.

Others disagree. They think he is Superman 2.

On the eve of his 22nd birthday, one full of historic hyperbole, Jamaica's Usain Bolt made the Olympics even more magical on Wednesday when he became the first man to win the Olympic sprint double with two world records, blazing to the 200-meter gold in 19.30 seconds.

Bolt won by the biggest margin since the 200 came on the Olympic scene 108 years ago. In a sport dominated by hundreds of seconds, he beat the field by two-thirds of a second.

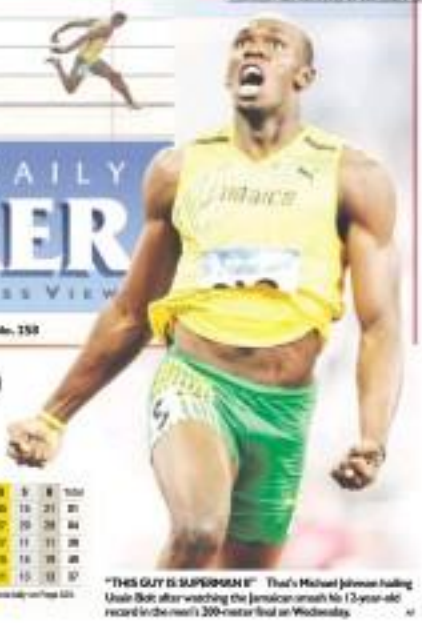
"Everything came together tonight and I just blew my mind and blew the world's mind," he said after his blistering run.

Already well ahead coming off a tight bend that was supposed to be his only challenge, the Jamaican didn't coast for the first time in the Games and bettered the world record of American Michael Johnson—ere

JAMAICAN, A13 ›

Medals	G	S	B	Total
China	40	16	21	81
U.S.	37	20	28	84
Britain	17	11	11	39
Russia	16	16	15	47
Australia	11	13	12	37

Medal table as of 8 a.m. Manila time on Friday, 8/22.



"THIS GUY IS SUPERMAN II" That's Michael Johnson hailing Usain Bolt after watching the Jamaican smash his 12-year-old record in the men's 200-meter final on Wednesday. AP

Palace: No more MOA

THE RITES OF REMEMBRANCE On the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of her husband Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, former President Cory Aquino and her family visit his grave at the Manila Memorial Park. They later attend Mass at the Don Bosco church in Makati City which filled up with three Presidents (story below), government officials, prominent politicians and Cory's "yellow brigade" of yore. EDD GARCIA

Cory rues loss of 'moral clarity'

By Kristine L. Alave and Tarra Quismundo

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, AFTER opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was assassinated, the Philippines was a country defiant of tyranny.

But these days that mood of defi-

ance has been replaced with "malaise" and "skepticism," his widow and a Catholic bishop said yesterday.

In a message after Mass to commemorate Ninoy's 25th death anniversary, his widow, former President Cory Aquino, said there was a "lack of moral clarity" in Philippine society, leaving younger Filipinos indifferent.

"To us then, the mood was one of defiance in the face of the brazen tyranny that claimed Ninoy's life, among thousands of others, and held our freedom ransom," Cory said.

She said the atmosphere today

CORY, A13 ›

3 ex-Presidents pray together but sit far apart

By Jobe M. Aurelio

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A UNITY Mass where three ex-Presidents prayed together for slain opposition leader Ninoy Aquino, but they sat rows apart and were boos aside from yellow, the color of the day.

Witnessing the irony, ex-Senate President Franklin Drilon told the Inquirer: "Three Presidents—Cory Edsa, Erap inside Don Bosco Church hearing Mass for Ninoy. Sitting apart and not talking to each other. And GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) is nowhere in sight! That's Filipino unity for you."

Common Aquino, Fidel Ramos

3 EX-PRESIDENTS, A13 ›

Marcos: 'My best successor is Ninoy'

By Fe Zamora

(Second in a series)

(Editor's Note: This part on the killing of opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. is based on interviews with ex-Col. Jesús Vez, former commander of the Presidential Guards; Rodolfo Jadia, alias Ramundo Bilog, former chief of the communist New People's Army (NPA); and Sen. Benigno C. Aquino III. Also used here were an unpublished interview with Cory Aquino by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power; the memoirs of the late senator's friend and traveling companion, Marvin "Mo" Brimody; and the affidavit of ex-Sgt. Pablo Martinez, one of the soldiers convicted of the Aquino-Galman slayings and who was released last year when he turned 70 years old. A retired brigadier general close to the Marcos family also provided information on conditions that his identity be withheld.)

WHENEVER PRESident Ferdinand Marcos was in the mood, he would gather his loyal generals in his study in Malacañang for an hour or so of leisurely discourse on issues that mattered most to him and his martial law administration.

Over coffee and pastries, the Commander in Chief would toss a ques-

MARCOS, A13 ›

Where are they now?

EX-COL. IRWIN VER WORKS IN CALIFORNIA WHERE HE LIVES WITH HIS two sons, one of whom is named Fabian, after the late Gen. Fabian C. Ver. He is the president of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association in California, and is usually back in Manila every February in time for the PMA alum-

WHERE, A13 ›

No signing of agreement with MILF in present form

By Michael Lim Ubac and Leila B. Salaverria

MALACAÑANG ANNOUNCED LAST NIGHT THAT IT would not sign a controversial deal on an expanded Bangsamoro homeland in its present form.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said that the Arroyo administration was reviewing the memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain in the light of statements made by several justices during a hearing last week opposing the deal and the outbreak of violence in Mindanao.

"They committed terrorist activities there," Dureza said, referring to attacks mounted by guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in at least five provinces in Central Mindanao that had left scores of civilians dead, including women and children.

"The position of Malacañang is very clear. We will not yet sign that, whatever the ruling of the Supreme Court will be," Dureza said. "We will await the ruling of the Supreme Court, but the decision had been arrived at, we will not sign the MOA in its present form."

Asked if the government had informed Malaysia and the powerful Organization of the Islamic Conference, which brokered the accord, Dureza said that Presidential Peace Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. had been tasked to do this.

Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez told reporters earlier yesterday that the high tribunal would resume its hearing today on petitions to strike down the MOA unless the Arroyo administration makes a categorical statement that the deal is off.

Marquez said that Tuesday's motion by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera asking the tribunal to dismiss petitions against the MOA be-

PALACE, A4 ›

Fighting escalates in Mindanao

By Inquirer Mindanao and Nikko Dizon in Manila

COTABATO CITY—FIGHTING BEtween government soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels yesterday escalated in Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan and North Cotabato, sending thousands of villagers fleeing from their homes.

At least four rebels were killed while a dozen others, including four soldiers, were wounded, the military reported.

"Sporadic fighting continues ... Aside from our ground troops, we are

FIGHTING, A4 ›

GMA to rebels: Lay down arms for peace

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday announced that guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) should lay down their arms if they want to talk peace with the government.

"These recent developments in the South lead to a change in the basic

GMA TO REBELS, A4 ›

COMING HOME Circa 1960s Opel Kadett is parked in front of the home of Lt. Col Angel Bautista in Jaro, Iloilo. On Monday, he was ambushed in Lanao del Norte. The men are preparing the tent for his final visit home. When he last left home, he made sure its fence damaged by Typhoon "Frank" was fixed, telling his wife, "you'll be safe if I am gone."

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 SIX DIGIT

SUERTRES

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P70,318,432.80

Mikey for Cha-cha but only after 2010

This is to stop speculation GMA wants to stay on, says President's son

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Performance to go
beyond freedom

By Norman Bordadora

PAMPANGA REP JUAN MIGUEL "Mikey" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's oldest son, said he supported congressional discussions on Charter change (Cha-cha) but would want the changes to take effect only after his mother's term ends in 2010.

Arroyo said he did not want to feed allegations that the President wanted to stay on beyond the two years left of her term.

"It's like cooking paella. It takes long to cook because it needs a lot of ingredients. So we can talk about how to cook it [and] we can already buy the ingredients," he explained in the process of Charter change.

"But to already only be served after 7 p.m. which is dinner time," he said.

The second-term congressman said he had yet to examine his constituents about Charter change and would not comment on whether his mother's fellow Pampangenses would favor the President's extending her term.

"I have yet to consult my constituency but if I were to be followed, Charter change should take effect only after 2010 so that there is no accusation that the President wanted to extend her term," Arroyo said.

"I am only interested in any talk regarding Cha-cha when they are in the context of the peace process," he said.

Committee vote on Tuesday

The House committee on constitutional amendments will meet on Tuesday to vote on whether or not to pursue Charter change.

Lo Union Rep. Victor Ortega, chair of the committee, said that if the committee votes to adopt Cha-cha and if it has enough time for big the hearing, it would vote up as well on what mode this should take.

Charter change has received renewed attention in the House after the President announced that her administration would support congressional moves to adopt a federal system government to accommodate a proposed agreement with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and create an independent Bangsamoro state.

The shift to a federal system would require that amendments be made to the Constitution.

The President's political opponents claim, however, that her intentions go beyond congressional revision for federalism — to open the Charter to the lifting of term limits of incumbent officials, herself included.

MILF rampage might stop it

But the violent rampage of the MILF in North Cotabato and Lanao del Norte could very well end its Charter change being rejected, said a House leader.

Isabela Rep. Georgidi Aggabao, a vice chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, said he used to support Cha-cha for purposes of adopting a federal system until MILF rebels wrecked civilians in the two provinces over the past two weeks.

"My theory is compromise will move to do for Charter change because of what has happened in Mindanao," Aggabao said.

"Federalism to those people is a different concept, with total sovereignty," he said, referring to the MILF's demand for a Bangsamoro state.

Speaker Prospero Nograles agreed with the idea of going slow on Cha-cha and federalism in light of the civilian killings and the burning of houses in Mindanao over the past weeks.

But he said there should be a consequence public debate on Charter change.

Nograles, who represents Davao City in the first District from Mindanao.

Mindanao lawmakers have criticized the government peace panel which negotiated the MOA-AD for agreeing to include more than 700 barangays in 4 provinces Mindanao in provinces in the proposed Bangsamoro homeland to be governed by a Bangsamoro Autonomous entity.

They said they weren't consulted about the inclusion of the villages and even about the MOA.

The Arroyo administration in the past weeks had expressed support for Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel's Senate Resolution 10 that seeks to convene a constituent assembly to adopt a federal system.

The House already has a counterpart measure filed by Cebu Rep. Simeon Cuenco, House Joint Resolution 14. Cuenco said it was "almost a carbon copy" of the Pimentel bill.

Another firm sues Sulpicio Lines over sunken cargo

a COMPANY WHOSE CARGO WAS LOST IN the Princess of the Stars sinking has sued Sulpicio Lines for over P600,000 in damages.

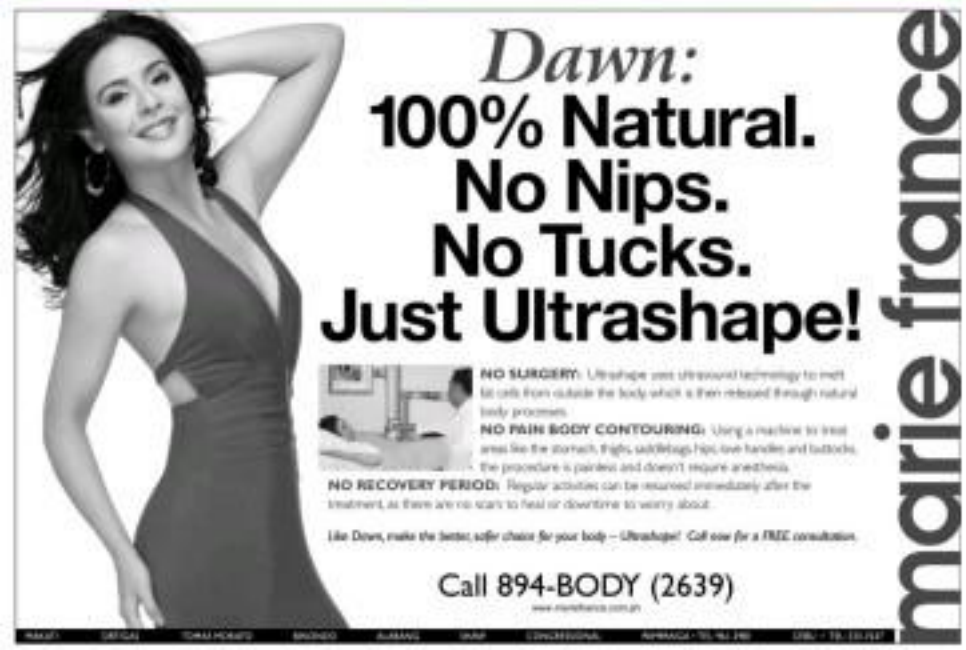
Ker and Co., in a complaint filed in a Manila court, said its shipment of 320 cartons was lost because of the "unseaworthiness" of the Sulpicio vessel, and the "fault and gross negligence" of its owner and crew.

It included as respondents Sergio Antonio Aranjuez Loginlin and Oriental Assurance Corp.

Ker said Aranjuez took the items in good condition and loaded them on the Princess of the Stars, which sank on June 21 off Romblon when it ran into rough weather caused by Typhoon "Frank."

Del Monte Phil. has filed a P42.7-million counterclaim against Sulpicio, which had slapped a P6.5-million damage suit against Del Monte for allegedly hiding the toxic nature of its cargo.

Allison M. Lopez



'Karen' leaves 10 dead, off to HK

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER LASHING NORTHERN Luzon and triggering landslides and floods that killed at least 18 people, Typhoon "Karen" blew out of the country yesterday and headed for Hong Kong.

But even as it moved away, Karen (international name Nari) enhanced the southwest monsoon, bringing more rains to the western side of Central and northern Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

The rest of Luzon, however, including Metro Manila, the Visayas and Mindanao will enjoy fair weather, said Pagasa senior weather specialist Robert Imot.

The tropical cyclone, the 11th in his country this year, brought rains, wind and floods on Wednesday, causing landslides in the mountainous northern provinces.

Yesterday, the typhoon was hovering over the South China Sea some 300 km northwest of Laoag City and moving west-southwest. Hong Kong, still pushing maximum sustained winds of 140 kph and gustiness up to 170 kph.

"It might further intensify before it hits Hong Kong because it's traversing a body of water," Imot said.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council said Karen left seven people dead in the Cordillera Administrative Region alone and caused almost P6 million worth of damage to property and infrastructure.

At least three more fatalities were reported in Kalinga and Ilocos Norte yesterday.

Most of those killed were buried in landslides in Abra, Benguet and La Union.

Cleo Jesse Gil Mark Anthony Somers and his brothers Lester, 3, and Alvin, 10, were killed when their house was buried in a landslide in Itogon, Benguet.

In Baguio City, 72-year-old Remia Kuchase was killed when her house was hit by collapsing riprap.

In Barangay Sinipsip, Arnold Antoy, 37, was buried in a landslide while cleaning a mine.

In Bauang, Abra, Catalina Bandalan, 53, died after being hit by a falling tree.

Also killed in a landslide was Hilario Bacbacgan, 77, of Barangay Pequeñal, Sablan, La Union.

Leslie Cariño, 23, of Baguio City was injured in a landslide.

Still missing in Ilocos Norte are one-year-old Alonzo Alejo and Dionisio Tamaraso, 50.

Danilo Tamaraso, 38, who was earlier reported missing, was confirmed to have drowned in the Padsan River in Sitio Nicolas town, Ilocos Norte.

Another Alejo drowned while crossing a river in Barangay Ilimnopuppy, Buena, Ilocos Norte.

In Bulilgat, Ambrosio Linyad, 50, drowned in Tinglayan town, police said.

The NDCC said that a total of 208 families, or 938 people, in 229 barangays in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Abra, Benguet and Kalinga were affected by the typhoon.

Department of Public Works and Highways reports pegged infrastructure damage in the Cordillera at P5 million while property damage in Baguio City, Benguet and Ilo Province was estimated at P5.7 million.

Damage to the Ayuda Dike in Amayen, Pampanga, was estimated at P2 million.

Ilocos Sur had was reopened yesterday. It was closed on Wednesday when portions of the road in Benguet and Ilo Province were blocked by rock slides. With reports from Nikki Dizon, Jhoanna Ballaran, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Jamestohias Golden, Villanueve Bluaye Jr., Frank Cimots, Delmar Cariño and Pierre Cabreras, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Glitches still bug Naia 3

ONE MONTH AFTER ITS MUCH-DELAYED opening, Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 (Naia T) is still unable to house its vacated high-tech features.

Arrival schedules are flashed on a wall by video projectors while covered flat screens display departure times and gate assignments. At the departure hall, a check-in island serves as symptom overcomes the customs, travel tax, quarantine and airport workers' assistance.

After a six-year delay because of construction and legal disputes, Naia 3 opened for partial domestic operations a month ago today and quickly expanded to service the international and domestic operations of Cebu Pacific Air and the domestic flights of PAL Express and Air Philippines.

But the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) has had to do a lot of improvising to enable the terminal to get through daily operations because of the glitches.

The terminal's flight information display system (FIDS) installed by the Internet connector, Japan's Mitsubishi Corp., cannot be made to work because Mitsubishi did not install the system's computer software.

Teruo Tawaraa, Miaa airport development and concession affairs chief, said the system and would eventually be able to use the FIDS but the problem was how to make it serve the airport's needs now.

The public address system had also had its problems as reception is poor in some parts of the terminal, a flaw that Terrazas acknowledged in its site. Tarra Quismorio

New ARMM execs take oath, vow to support one flag, one country

By Michael Lim Ubac

MEMBERS (ELECTED) OFFICIALS OF the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) yesterday took their oath of office before President Macapagal-Arroyo and pledged allegiance to one flag and country.

Arroyo continued armed skirmishes between government troops and elements of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Maguindanao, ARMM Gov. Datu Zaldy Ampatuan brought the entire Muslim Mindanao leadership to the seat of power in Manila.

The simple ceremony in Malacañang was replete with symbolism, but it was seen as sending a clear message.

"They recognize the presidency and the republic she heads. Their presence in Malacañang attests to the Muslim people's aspiration for peace and their accommodation of war as a means to achieve so-unpolitical change," said Bay Ruguero, executive director of the retrogressive Lakas-CMD.

Ampatuan, ARMM Vice Gov. Ikhanul Gani Alonto Adiong and other members of the regional assembly representing Maguindanao, Sharifl Kabuntalan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan were elected on Aug. 11 in a vote that featured the first automated polls in the country.

They all belong to the newly-formed administration party Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino.

Ruguero said President Arroyo appeared to have the upper hand in the battle to win the hearts and minds of the Muslim minority.

"In fact, they prepared that in mind of pushing up MILF camps. Muslim communities should be established in areas that were there," said Ruguero.

After the induction, the 26 ARMM officials, plus five trustee governors and two congressmen, met briefly with the President in the Music Room, and later had lunch with her in the Aguinaldo State Dining Room.

Ampatuan said Tan told reporters that the resolution of the current conflict with the MILF was discussed with the President. They disclosed that she said she remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the 40-year Moro separatist movement.

The government and legislators who stooped in the Palace in support of the officials were Jose Miguel Arroyo, Andal Ampatuan of Maguindanao, Abdusakur Tan of Sulu, Sakkal Sakali of Tawi-Tawi and Ibrahim Ibay of Sharifl Kabuntalan and Representatives Abdul Mizaik Arbison and Majid Mitmug.

Ruguero said it was the first time since the creation of the ARMM that its governor was reelected.

It was also a test of the viability of a Lakas-Kampi merger in local politics, he said.

He noted that Ampatuan-led Ampatuan in reporters after the induction, the ARMM officials said they had been elected to "govern the region and to look after their general welfare," in obvious rejection of the MILF's claim of representing the Bangsamoro people.

Ampatuan also cautioned the attacks engaged by the MILF in three provinces in Mindanao.

"We call on the MILF leadership to take full responsibility for the criminal acts by some elements of the MILF and to help bring these elements to justice," they said, urging the MILF to abandon the declaration Commander Omar Ibn Kato and Abdullah Macapar as Commander three.

Dureza bares P30-M overprice try at NPO

PRESS SECRETARY JESUS Dureza said he was able to block an attempt to overprice by P30 million the cost of printing the ballots for the recent Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) elections by a republican opposing in the vote-counting machine Precinct Printing Office.

Dureza revealed this on Wednesday as he appointed Enrique Agana as the NPO acting director, instructing Agana to "dismantle the syndicate and bring culprits to [the] DPWH."

Dureza said he suspected the irregularities when he reviewed the operations of the NPO, which is under his office, just as the syndicate was on the verge of finalizing a contract for the printing of the ballots for the Aug. 11 ARMM election.

The syndicate was pushing for a contract that placed the cost of printing 1,200,000 ballots at P27.10 per piece.

He said he instructed then-NPO officer in charge Dionisio Villanueva to rescind the contract.

When Villanueva told him that "she had no authority to change what had been already previously arranged with a supposedly cleared bidding by contract or the NPO," Dureza promptly designated her OIC in the then OIC, then-rescinds Cayman, rescinded.

He said the cost of printing each ballot was grossly reduced, from P27.10, or a total of P34,000,000, to P4.50, or P5,777,000.

"This is not for me fiscally and decision intervention, the accustomed overprice would have been a whopping P20,118,822," Dureza said.

He said he intended to turn over the scheme to the NPO investigators. Christine O. Avendaño

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 21, 2009
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Queenship of Mary

1st Reading: Is 9:1-6
Gospel: Mt 4:12-23

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth. He was sent to a young virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the family of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Mary was troubled at these words, wondering what this greeting could mean.

But the angel said, "Do not fear, Mary, for God has favored you with grace. You shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call him Jesus. He will be great and shall rightly be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the kingdom of David, his ancestor; he will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his reign shall have no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the holy child to be born shall be called Son of God. Even your relative Elizabeth is expecting a son in her old age, although she was unable to have a child, and she is now in her sixth month. With God nothing is impossible."

Then Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

Commentary

A reason of ninety months those who think she was; she set up crown that is seen by the blessed virgin Mary as she sits beside her Son, Jesus Christ, the King. We honor Mary as the Queen of Heaven and earth by virtue of her maternal relationship with Our King. Still, we believe that those who persevere in fighting the good fight and endure the challenge of running the race will also have a place of great honor in the Kingdom.

May the Queen of Heaven intercede for us poor sinners as an artist to make her way to our heavenly home.

More Pinoys say they can help reduce corruption

MORE FILIPINOS NOW THINK THEY CAN help reduce corruption, according to a series of surveys conducted by the Social Weather Station, in September and December 2007 but released only last week by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

The surveys, commissioned by the PAGC for use in formulating strategies to elicit active public support for its graft-prevention campaign, showed a three-percentage-point increase in the number of people who considered themselves capable of doing something against corruption.

The increase represented the difference between the September and December surveys among people who disagreed with the net statement "A person like me cannot do anything to reduce corruption in the government."

"Thirty-one percent disagreed with that statement in the September survey, and 34 percent in the December poll. We are happy for the three-percentage-point rise considering the gap of barely three months between the two surveys," PAGC Chair Constancio de Guzman said in a statement.

The September survey had 31 percent of the respondents mentally affirming their helplessness against graft.

The number dipped to 40 percent some three months later.

At the same time, the number of undecided rose from 17 percent in September to 19 percent in December.

"It shows an increasing number of people who think they can do something against corruption in their own little way, which is what the PAGC needs to obtain its goal," De Guzman said.

De Guzman was referring to the PAGC's Integrity Development Action Plan (Idap), which is being implemented in 135 national and regional government agencies.

Geared to redress and ultimately eliminate corrupt practices in the government, Idap involves four sets of integrity measures—prevention, education, investigation and enforcement (detentions), and strategic partnership.

Net agreement with the net statement, or the percentage of those who agreed minus that of those who disagreed, was highest in Luzon at plus 17 and lowest in Mindanao at plus 2.

Metro Manila scored plus 6, and the Visayas plus 10.

The lowest net agreement rate came from age groups 18 to 24 at minus 2, followed by those aged 35 to 44 at plus 7.

Another violent Aug. 21 marked

WHILE MARKING THE ASSASSINATION OF one of its leaders on the same day, members of the Liberal Party (LP) also gathered yesterday to commemorate another bloody event—the Plaza Miranda bombing of 1971.

Led by former Senator Ernesto Herrera, who barely survived the blast that killed eight and injured 20 others, the LP members wore yellow shirts featuring the likeness of the late Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and the legend "Kulay nawa ang sikmo ni Ninoy" (Let us continue Ninoy's fight).

"A hundred pieces of shrapnel still in my body, one eye out, one ear so longer hearing, that was me did at Plaza Miranda way historic. It is a symbol of what the people are prepared to do to defend their liberty and democracy," said Salonga, now 66.

On Aug. 21, 1971, two fragmentation grenades hurled on stage by unidentified men gravely wounded then Senators Jovito Salonga, Gerardo Roxas and Sergio Osmeña Jr. and Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing.

Salonga was presented a plaque of recognition by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim for his "extraordinary valorous participation in the democratic processes of the country." A marker on the bombing was also inaugurated at the plaza in Quiapo where the rally was held.

"Aug. 21, 1971 is historic for our party and our country because since then, the will of Isabela onijon was suspended. A year and a month later, martial law was declared and the country fell under a dictatorship. That's why we're here, to mark the memorable day and renew our pledge to never let that happen again," said LP president Sen. Mar Roxas.

Asked if his attendance at the event meant he was joining the LP, Lim, who had resigned from the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) the day before, said it was too early to say.

"I am still in a daze. I was so confused and exhausted... for now I will remain on my position against the present administration. I will have to drink hard about that (joining the LP)," he said.

Lim resigned as PMP president on Wednesday after former President Joseph Estrada announced on Tuesday that he had quit.

"If the Liberal Party is welcome to Manila, Mayor Lim is very, very much welcome in the Liberal Party," said Roxas to cheers from the crowd. —Alliance H. Logue, with Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Palace: No more memorandum of agreement

From page A1

course "circumstances had changed" and that the administration would renegotiate to improve what was convincing enough.

Formal manifestation

"I think there has to be a formal manifestation of the intention to the court... If you read the motion, there's really no categorical statement there. The solicitor general would have to reconsider the court that's really the intention of government, that the MOA is in its present form will no longer be signed," Macapinlac told reporters.

He said that the court would also have to consider the views of the petitioners—Mindanao local officials who said they were not consulted in the inclusion of areas under their jurisdiction in the expanded Moro homeland.

Mahadzarin earlier said the MOA would end four decades of fighting that had claimed 120,000 lives and displaced 2 million in Mindanao, but the petitioners said the MOA amounted to a dismemberment of the Philippine republic and the creation of a state within.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the signing in Malaysia on Aug. 5 of the MOA pending a hearing on the petitions.

The MILF had earlier said that the MOA had become a "done deal" after it was initialed in July in Malaysia during secret negotiations and whatever ruling the court comes out with now was not binding on the group.

MILF leaders have blamed the attacks in Mindanao in the past two weeks on field commanders impatient at the delay in the implementation of what had been described by both sides as a preliminary accord.

'Patently illegal'

During the initial court hearing last week, several justices said that the document was "patently illegal" and that some of its provisions violated the Constitution.

Last week, Mahadzarin served notice of amending the Constitution after the Supreme Court in 2006—declared as a "grand deception" a similar move. Critics said that the MOA was a "Trojan horse" designed to change the Charter and prolong Ms Arroyo's stay in power beyond 2010, the mandatory expiration of her term.

Former Sen. Franklin Drilon, Sen. Manuel Roxas and United Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano yesterday filed a joint opposition to Intervenors's plea, asking the court to proceed with today's hearing and issue a ruling striking down the preliminary agreement.

"It removes from respondents the duty to still undertake a review of the terms of the MOA or will renegotiate its terms is not tantamount to a commitment that they will not sign the same," they said in a statement.

Possibility of revival

"The rendered the intended revision or renegotiation of the MOA include among the distinct possibilities a decision to adopt the exact or equivalent MOA in its present form, leaving it to the executive, ipse and mere for adjudication the claims and prayers of the petitioner," the three said in their joint opposition.

Drilon, Roxas and Tamano said in a statement that Dureza's pronouncement that the MOA would not be signed had been contradicted by his executive secretary Eduardo Ermita, prompting not from Tamino appointed to be saying that the deal was not flawed and that Mahadzarin would just have to wait for the court ruling before deciding what to do.

"Without such a categorical declaration made in writing, under oath to the Supreme Court, the imminent possibility of the signing of the same MOA or the negotiation or execution of an agreement with similar terms to the MOA will be ever present," the three said.

They also contested what they said was the government's protecting that blamed the high court's TRO on the MOA signing for the violence that has erupted in Mindanao provinces.

Unlawful act

The three petitioners said what started the latest willing was the government peace panel's "unlawful act ... in encouraging the MILF forces to claim by force what it considers as its moral and legal rights in claim—the Bangsamoro territory."

According to them, it was "extremely disrespectful" for the government to blame the deaths on a lawful action, when it was its "reckless and wilfully irresponsible acts of negotiating and initialing a MOA that they cannot defend in any court of law."

The petitioners also want the high court to decide the case on its merits so that any abuse of discretion or unconstitutional actions by the government peace panel would be known.

They said that Mahadzarin's move to render moot the petition should not stop the tribunal from ruling on the constitutional issues.

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Fighting escalates in Mindanao

From page A1

shelling their positions. They are trying to see how to use air support," said Col. Alan Iglesia, commander of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade. He said the airstrikes remained against MILF rebels holed up in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao.

"We also fired several rounds of howitzers to drive away hundreds of rebels in the village of Tupilao, Shimanapano and in the remote areas of Datu Saudi and Datu Piang towns," he said.

The skirmishes that began on Wednesday resulted in the exodus of more than 70,000 residents from Shariff Aguak, Datu Saudi, Shimanapano, Datu Piang, Datu Unsay towns in Maguindanao, and from Kabuntalan and Northern Kabuntalan in Shariff Kabunsuan, said Dr. Tahir Sahali, health secretary for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The residents sought refuge in the mosques, Sahali said. "Schools and all other available public buildings, including mosques, are currently serving as temporary shelters of these people," he said.

AFP operations intensified

Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, acting chief of the AFP Command Center, said the intensified military operations were against "renegade" groups of the MILF. He urged the other rebel fighters "to get out of the way."

"We are running against the members of these lawless elements," Segovia said during a media briefing in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. He identified the MILF leaders as Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo, a certain Commander Pangalian, and Ameril Ombra Kato.

Bravo, who heads the MILF's 102nd Base Command, and Pangalian of the 105th Base Command, are their targets in Mamasapano in Talitkugan, Kauswagan and two other towns in Lanao del Norte on Monday, killing at least 26 people, including an Army Lt. Col. Angel Bentin.

The MILF leader was disgusted when government peace negotiators failed to sign a memorandum of agreement on a proposed Bangsamoro homeland following a Supreme Court order.

Kato heads the MILF's 105th Base Command in North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

"Anybody who will support these groups that we are pursuing, will join them, and sympathize with them becomes also part of our operations," Segovia said. "Even in simple terms, anybody who harbors the fugitive becomes liable. It's that simple."

No surrender

The government filed criminal charges against Kato for the attacks against civilians in North Cotabato, but the MILF yesterday said that "definitely," it would not surrender Kato and Bravo.

Mohagher Iqbal, the MILF chief negotiator for the peace process, said the MILF would conduct an "internal investigation" into the attacks.

As a "revolutionary organization," the MILF will "never turn over our men to them," he said.

The MILF insists on "internal justice" system under which Bravo and Kato would be tried if ever they are found to have committed crimes, Iqbal said. The two commanders have been "sanctioned" by the MILF leadership, he said.

To defend Kato, Bravo

He said MILF guerrillas would "fight it out" with government troops if they tried to arrest Bravo and Kato.

Police filed charges of multiple arson, robbery in band, serious illegal detention, murder and attempted murder against Kato for armed incursions in several villages in North Cotabato covering Separate charges are set to be filed against Bravo.

In General Santos City Senior Supt. Carmelito Medes, police information chief in General Mindanao, said policemen were still hunting down MILF rebels and Abu Sayyaf group members who were involved in Monday's raid in Manabo, Sarangani, resulting in two civilian fatalities.

The AFP Eastern Mindanao Command (Easmincom) said Army soldiers belonging to the 40th IB and the 6th Infantry Division clashed for more than three hours with MILF rebels in Barangay Mother in Kabuntalan in Shariff Kabunsuan, prompting a 46-minute firefight.

The rebels, belonging to the MILF's 105th Base Command, were led by Zaid Mahdalim, alias Commander Ael and Commander Monay, according to Maj. Armand Rico, Easmincom spokesperson.

(No government casualties were reported)

Radio talk

Salazar said the military found that the MILF suffered less fatalities from the rebels' radio conversations that it intercepted.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, Eastern Mindanao deputy spokesperson based in Davao City, said fighting erupted in Datu Saudi village in Maguindanao town in North Cotabato as soldiers pursued Kato and another MILF leader, Wahid Tundok.

Four soldiers were wounded, he said. He identified them as Pfc. Roland Apdalan, and Privates First Class Roland Bagonoon, Nico Puerto and Norhasis Abdurahim, all of the Army's 40th Infantry Battalion.

"They are in stable condition," he said. He said Rizalda, MILF civil-military affairs chief, told the soldiers "wounded" into MILF areas in Maguindanao and were attended by "members of the MILF peacekeeping force."

Although he declined comment on the reported rebel fatalities, Kintoto claimed that four military officers were killed in the clashes.

Segovia said the increased military operations on the ground would "not worsen full-scale offensives. "There is no all-out war ... We are stepping up military operations so there will be all-out peace in Mindanao," he said.

"We tried all the peaceful means necessary but for some of the groups, this is the only language they understand, so we are talking to them in their language by using military operations," Segovia said.

Appeal to halt hostilities

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan has appealed for a halt to the hostilities. "All of us want peace and the autonomous government we have now is a result of what is enshrined on the Constitution and through public consultation," he said.

He also called on the MILF to desist from attacking civilian areas. "Employing force and intimidation by attacking towns and villages in the region just to get the attention of the national government is a form of terrorism and is considered a high-profile criminal offense."

"We should stop this and go back to the negotiating table. An there is no better solution to a peaceful settlement of conflict," Ampatuan said.

He reminded the MILF leadership that the ones suffering from the violence were "our own innocent Muslim brothers and sisters whom we are supposed to protect."

Other evacuees can't go home

While almost all evacuees had sailed back from Country City to their towns in Lanao del Norte on Thursday, several families headed back to Misamis Occidental, saying they were not yet comfortable using the Iligan-Ozamiz highway.

Many residents of Kolambugan have opted to stay at the evacuation center run by the provincial government in the capital town of Tubod for fear of another MILF attack.

"We always receive these advisories, mostly from our Muslims townmates, of impending MILF attacks as our town for the last decade. We have usually brushed them aside, but now that it has come true, it is hard to immediately come out home," said Lea Hernandez, a government employee.

Local defense groups were being organized by residents with licensed guns.

In a press conference in Ozamiz on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro assured the people of Misamis Occidental that the military would not launch any offensive against another rebel campaign. With reports from Geoffrey Mathos, Edwin Fernandez, Noah Mendioro, Charlie Señase, Aquilin Zonio, Ryan D. Ramores and Rio Ortega, Inquirer Mindanao

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PRESIDENTIAL Adviser on the Peace Process Hermogenes Esperon Jr. has a lot of explaining to do during a forum on the GRP-MILF peace talks at the National Defense College of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday.

SURRENDER IN KAGAN CITY Going up the light on Wednesday night are 21 MILF fighters led by their faction commander Alvin Costa (at left) of the 14th Brigade, 103rd Base Command of Commander Bravo, and seven sub-commanders. Costa says they could no longer take the atrocities being done by Bravo that included killing civilians and children.

FVR urges transparency in peace talks

By Julie M. Aurelio

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL Ramos yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo should resume peace talks in a transparent manner with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) after consulting with all affected sectors in Mindanao.

"She needs to gather all the elders, and not just the political leaders, to work out the peace talks and encouragement with the rebels," Ramos told reporters after attending Mass commemorating the 25th death anniversary of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr.

"Let's go back to the negotiating table and deal with the peace talks in a transparent way. After all, the Muslims are not the only group that belongs to the Bangsamoro people. And Mindanao is not only for them," Ramos said.

Ramos forged a peace agreement in 1996 with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) then headed by Nur Misuari. The MNLF was then the dominant separatist group in Mindanao.

"The peace talks must continue because the other option is war ... and who wants a war? The ones who suffer most are the innocent civilians and our armed forces who fight. Side was," Ramos said.

He declined comment on the controversial memorandum of agreement (MOA) on ancestral domain with the MILF. "It's just yet time to judge. I think it's too premature ... Let us not pass judgment at this point," Ramos said.

Ramos said the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac) should be convened to discuss the issue and resolve it as a body. He said he was sorry that the Ledac meeting had been postponed.

The meeting, originally scheduled today, was called off to await the outcome of the case against the MOA pending in the Supreme Court.

1996 deal with MNLF

Former Speaker Jose de Venecia also said that the Arroyo administration should have conducted the negotiations "in full transparency" and held "socio-sensing consultations with the parties concerned."

He said the MILF rebels responsible for the attacks on civilians in recent weeks should be made to answer to their actions and that the government should review the MOA carefully.

De Venecia compared the MILF talks to the MNLF agreement in 1996, and claimed the Ramos administration was more "successful" because it was transparent.

"Because of the transparency to that deal, we were able to negotiate well until we were very successful. I am very proud of that," De Venecia said.

MNLF-MILF rift

Former Sen. Sotero Laurel said MILF leaders whom he had consulted viewed "with grave and serious concern" the current situation in Mindanao.

Lawyer Jose Lorena, a member of the MNLF panel during the 1996 peace talks, also said that MNLF leaders had been meeting in Metro Manila and the violence in Lanao del Sur "is one of their agenda."

But while they were "closely watching the developments on the ground," Misuari and other MNLF leaders were "distancing" themselves from the MILF Lorena said.

Shun denial

Also yesterday, communist leader Jose Ma. Sison denied ordering New People's Army (NPA) rebels to mount attacks on government troops in support of the MILF.

Sison, who is based in the Netherlands, said in an e-mailed statement that as chief political consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines he was "not in any position to issue orders" to the NPA.

He said that his recent statements that NPA tactical offensives would be resumed in sympathy with the MILF guerillas and Moro people should not be misconstrued as an order for attack against government troops.

"It is the Arroyo regime that is responsible for the escalation of the armed conflict in Mindanao and in the entire Philippines," Sison said.

"By announcing that it wants to review, further negotiate and revise the MOA, the Arroyo regime violently tells the MILF to bend and break by giving up what it has gained on paper through many years of informal talks and indefinite ceasefire," he said.

Amending the Charter

The National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) said that the senior government's motion informing the Supreme Court of the government's decision not to sign the MOA "due to changed circumstances" was a clear proof that the Arroyo administration was using the deal to launch a campaign for Charter change.

"Now that President Arroyo has skillfully shifted to federalism in justifying the opening up of the Constitution for amendments, she can officially withdraw from signing the MOA," the NUPL said. "Her intention has been mainly to pave the way for term sharing." With reports from Editor C. Tiamzon Jr., TJ Burgonio, Jerome Aning and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

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GMA to Moro rebels: Lay down arms for peace

From page A1

promise of our peace efforts," the President said, referring to attacks mounted in Mindanao by "MILF-affiliated rebel groups."

"The focus of our talks shall shift from the armed groups to the communities," the Arroyo said. "From negotiations, our focus shall shift to dialogues with the communities or government conducting inclusive conversations or dialogue with the people."

"The force of arms does not enable any armed group to represent the people," she said. From now on, she declared, "our engagements with all armed groups shall be about disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation or DDR."

DDR will be "about the people and government telling armed groups to give up armed struggle," she said.

"The objective of our peace processes shall be the end of all forms of armed rebellion in the country. Therefore, this shall mean a national rejection of armed struggle as a means of achieving political and ideological change and of pursuing our common moral to democracy," Ms. Arroyo said.

However, the President stressed that her administration remained committed to the peace process in Mindanao. "We are not in war with the Muslim community."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said there was no set deadline for the talks. Finding the right "formula" is the key.

"That's the purpose of the peace process ... to silence the guns," Ermita said. "If they are serious about attaining peace, they must agree to a ceasefire. That's why our precondition to them is to agree to a ceasefire and and abide by it."

GMA also referred to NPA

Ermita stressed the President was also referring to the 7,000-strong New People's Army, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

The Arroyo administration has been organizing dialogues with communities led by local government units following the collapse of formal peace talks with the communists in September 2004.

The President's announcements of a shift in strategy followed directives to the Armed Forces of the Philippines to focus down exclusively those responsible for the MILF attacks in North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Sarangani and Maguindanao.

More than 30 civilians, including women and children, and a dozen soldiers have been killed in the attacks that followed the aborted signing of a deal on an expanded Moro homeland on Aug. 5 following objections by local officials in Mindanao.

Ermita earlier said that Ms Arroyo "denies the MILF leadership's lack of control over its so-called base commanders."

The MILF has stated repeatedly that the peace accord with the government did not mean that its 12,000 fighters will disarm. The CPP has taken a similar stand in its own unilateral negotiations with the Arroyo administration.

JCI WORLD PRESIDENT VISITS RP

JCI WORLD president Graham Horton (middle) arrived in the country last August 19 for a three-day official visit. He was warmly received by the 200,000-strong Philippine Jaycees led by National president Bjy Lesaca (3rd from left), past National president Sheen Santos (2nd from left) and Dr. Patrick Alan T. Asuncio (3rd from left), former president of the JCI Manilakupang. JCI World president Horton was conferred the "Highest Order of Bluestriker" by the JCI Manilakupang Chapter for his leadership and commitment to the ideals of the Jaycee Movement.

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Privilege Speech delivered by Congressman Jun F. Pillol, North Cotabato 2nd District, before the 2nd Regular Session of the 14th Congress, August 11, 2008.

Peaceful Co-existence is the Call of the Day

Tonight, as sporadic fighting rages in my province, and as the MILF starts raising their flags in their occupied areas, Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about my birth place Mindanao and share with you the dreams and aspirations of my family and of my people.

Mr. Speaker, my birth place Mindanao is in the limelight again. It has always been and forever it might be, Mr. Speaker.

It has been in the front pages, the talk of the town, and the hot topic of the day. It's no wonder, Mr. Speaker. After all, Mindanao has been, for almost four decades, known as troubled and controversial place in this part of Asia.

And thanks to the play makers, the rebels and wrong doers, Mr. Speaker. They deserve the credit for all the negative impression of Mindanao.

Mr. Speaker, the region of Mindanao - being referred to as troubled area - will never be erased in the minds of the people in the world.

The shameful reality that in Mindanao there live Filipino families who are the poorest of the poor might never be corrected, Mr. Speaker.

But lest we forget, Mr. Speaker, may I ask: where in the country can you find a place where churches, mosques, chapels and fellowship houses are a plenty yet its people are enveloped by catastrophies?

Where in Asia, Mr. Speaker, can you find a place as beautiful as Mindanao - pristine flowing waters, wide open seas, lakes and forest teeming with rare flora and fauna, vast fertile lands, and most of all, the most ideal climate free from the winds of typhoons, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, may I also ask which places in the country are so gifted with unlimited natural resources and mineral deposits, from copper and silver to gold?

Ah, no place can come close to Mindanao, Mr. Speaker.

Only Mindanao, Mr. Speaker. Yes the wealth and resources of Mindanao cannot be quantified in this stage and time, Mr. Speaker.

But why does Mindanao play host to these paradox of the poor family, Mr. Speaker?

Why is there never-ending conflict and trouble in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker, I venture to say that Mindanao's dismal and sorry conditions are by-products of some leaders' indifference and many people's greed.

Yes, Mr. Speaker. Since time immemorial - from the Spanish, the Americans, and the Japanese - all these foreign invaders have nothing in mind but their ulterior and vested interest for Mindanao, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these colonizers did not come to Mindanao to uplift the quality of life of each and every Mindanaoan but to amass its resources.

Meaning, Mr. Speaker, the Spanish, American, and Japanese invested in Mindanao is to harvest not to cultivate; to get not to give; and to control not to promote development, Mr. Speaker.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, these foreign visitors of Mindanao who came in early years, only treated Mindanao as a wealth, a pot of gold, worthy to be possessed.

Yes, what are important to them are the minerals and other precious resources of Mindanao, not its people. That is the reason why they wanted to build fortresses not communities, Mr. Speaker.

Sad to say, Mr. Speaker, our country's leaders, past and present, have barely changed manners and perception towards Mindanao and its people.

Despite the confidences of their motives and apparent honesty of purpose, Mr. Speaker, our leaders were not able to offer positive programs and strategies to lift the quality of life of each and every Mindanaoan, Mr. Speaker.

This is so, Mr. Speaker, because our government has macro-managed Mindanao. They see only the forest not the trees, Mr. Speaker.

Meaning, Mr. Speaker, our leaders recognize only tribes and tribal leaders not the tribesmen; and our government officials bind only to the demand of rebel commanders not the cries of the children and spouses of their poor combatants, Mr. Speaker.

Worse, they - as a government – failed to provide the essentials and concrete assistance to truly uplift and develop each and every family, Mr. Speaker.

Every time there are good prospects for development in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker, our government leaders have the propensity to immediately offer them to multi-nationals or foreign investors.

Our leaders in government failed to realize that the purpose of multi-nationals and foreign investors is to earn profit notwithstanding the welfare of ordinary Muslims or Christians or tribesmen in the area, Mr. Speaker.

Another failure of our leaders, past and present, Mr. Speaker, are their utter helplessness by asserting moral and governmental authority to Mindanao.

Many times, Mr. Speaker, our government stood indecisive on crucial issue that gives an impression of weakness in the eyes of well-meaning citizens including the rebels and those still planning to be.

But the greatest blunder of political leaders, past and present, Mr. Speaker, is their failure to prescribe the right medicines to the illness of the people in Mindanao.

Like a physician in hurry, Mr. Speaker, our government leaders prescribed quick relief panacea called GRP-MILF Peace Agreement, believing that peace and order problem is nothing but slight fever that afflicts Mindanao.

This government failed to realize, Mr. Speaker, that Mindanao troubles and disturbances which are akin to fever is caused by a much serious infectious disease called poverty.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, poverty is the serious illness that spawns all troubles, all the upheavals and the never ending conflict in my beloved, Mindanao, Mr. Speaker.

Yes, our leaders acknowledged persistent poverty in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker. But sadly, their formula of solving the poverty problem is lacking in spirit and in essence, Mr. Speaker.

They believe that constructing mega infra projects and nautical highways will answer the poverty problem of Mindanao. They are wrong, Mr. Speaker.

They entered into peace agreement with a rebel group and declaring there after that Mindanao will enjoy lasting peace. That is an exaggeration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these mega infra projects only facilitate the best interest of moneyed individuals and multi-nationals not exactly the poor Mindanaoan who barely have slippers on their feet, Mr. Speaker.

The peace agreement being entered into by our government with a rebel group only appeases, Mr. Speaker. It is mere means to "please" rather than to achieve lasting peace in Mindanao.

Faced with these scenarios, Mr. Speaker, what shall our government do?

Mr. Speaker, if we are honest enough, if we are sincere enough then let us promote the welfare of each and every Mindanaoan not the interest of foreign investors or moneyed individuals.

If we are determined enough and brave enough, Mr. Speaker, then we should adhere to the principle of peaceful co-existence among all tribes in Mindanao not its division or fragmentation Mr. Speaker.

Maybe we are of different religion and belief, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we differ in culture and tradition.

But Christians, Muslims, and other tribal groups in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker have but one aspiration: to live in peace along with each other, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, inter-marriages between Muslims and Christians are happening almost everyday in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is true, Mr. Speaker.

So, if a Muslim husband and a Christian wife can build one happy family, why don't we promote and encourage this scenario so that we can have one big happy Mindanao family, Mr. Speaker?

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize this:

Our family, led by my brother, Vice Gov. Manny of North Cotabato who spearheaded the filing of a petition in the Supreme Court to stop the signing of the MOA on Ancestral Domain, is not against the Moros or Muslims as some groups wanted to project.

We have best of friends who are Muslims. Many of our political supporters and allies are Muslims. I love my birth place North Cotabato in Mindanao, Mr. Speaker.

Reason why when my two sons were born in mid 1980's, Mr. Speaker, we have them baptized with Muslim names - Sanjay Omar, and Adnan Shamir. Both are now grown up degree holders, proud of their Muslim names, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we are one and we will never be against any do-gooders to Mindanao. In fact and in truth, Mr. Speaker, we the Christians, the Muslims and the tribal groups are fighting a common enemy – poverty. Yes, poverty is our real enemy, Mr. Speaker.

And together we can defeat poverty, Mr. Speaker, if this government will make sure that every inch of Mindanao soil shall become productive.

We can defeat poverty, Mr. Speaker, if our government shall make sure that every centavo of government assistance shall trickle down to the ordinary Muslims, Christians, or tribesmen not to commanders or rebel leaders alone, Mr. Speaker.

We can surely defeat poverty, Mr. Speaker, if our ordinary farmer, Muslim or Christian, remain tiller of his own land not the multi-nationals, moneyed individuals or foreign investors.

Mr. Speaker, I would emphasize this again: defeating poverty, not peace talks with rebels is our assurance of lasting peace in Mindanao.

And that, Mr. Speaker, the call of the day is peaceful co-existence among Muslims, Christians and tribal groups in Mindanao.

This is our dream, this is our aspiration – peaceful co-existence!

Madaeo gid nga salamat kag maayo nga gabi sa sini tanan.

CHILDREN OF PEACE. Flanked by young tri-people, former Cotabato Governor, now Vice Gov Manny P. Pillol conceptualized the Children of Peace program in 2003 as a dynamic approach to address the escalating distrust among Muslims, Christians and other tribes. The Vice Gov believes that understanding each other's culture will redound to lasting peace and development in North Cotabato.

ENDING REBELLION. Cong. Pillol believes that poverty is the root cause of Mindanao conflict. Sustainable agriculture will defeat poverty. 1 Shown is the laundry of oil palm harvest. 2 A former MILF sympathizer from Camp Abubakar proudly shows off a bunch of palm oil in Dungguan, Midsayap, Cotabato through the help of Mayor Lito Piñol. 3 A Muslim woman, stands proud of her rubber tree courtesy of Piam New-Pay Later Program of Cong. Pillol. 4 Coconut seedlings ready for distribution to farmers through the efforts of CEP Director Danny Cornelio.

Paid for by:

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Ninoy memorial lifts Cory spirits

By Kristine L. Alave

THE NATION'S CHIEF MOURNER—the widow of her husband's death 25 years ago—limited her appearance at Former President Cory Aquino whose health has been improving since she was diagnosed with colon cancer early this year, her daughter, actress Kris Aquino, said yesterday.

Six months after the diagnosis, nine months after the former President is slowly regaining her health, Kris yesterday said in an interview at the St. John Bosco Parish Church in Makati where the Aquino clan, along with friends and politicians, honored the memory of her slain father, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Kris said her mother looked forward to the 25th anniversary activities and was more active the past few months.

"Her condition continues to improve. From the time she was diagnosed, she has become stronger," she said.

Improved appetite

"She goes to the office three times a week. Drives, she just stays in the house," Kris noted, adding that her mother's appetite has also improved.

Dr. Rosario Blas Arandez, one of Cory's physicians, said his patient's condition in the past few months exceeded his expectations.

"Word first. Blas's doing well. The quality of life has improved. It's much more than what we expected. The results were good," Arandez said.

However, Arandez said no and other doctors had not totally removed Cory's cancer. "She is doing as well as we could have hoped we can only pray for the cure," he said. "It's not complete remission yet."

The doctor said Cory continued to take medication and to undergo chemotherapy every two weeks.

In an emotional speech after the Mass yesterday, Cory said she was glad that the country, especially the youth, remembered her husband.

"First it who it fills me with great joy to see young people—some of them not quite 25 yrs—revisiting Ninoy and interpreting what he stood for from the '70s, '80s, '90s and up to now," she said, referring to the "Sanctuary" campaign.

The campaign, which uses Ninoy's iconic eyeglasses, is geared at popularizing and making Ninoy relevant to the youth today.

Collectible merchandise

Participants of the campaign, which include apparel manufacturers and sportswear stores, aim to sell collectible merchandise with Ninoy's image on it. Proceeds of the campaign will benefit various projects and charities.

"I am thankful that many among our youth continue to derive inspiration from Mr Ninoy—from seeing our nation, and the world, through his eyes," Cory said.

Twenty-five years after his death, Cory said her husband belonged not only to her family but to the Filipino people, too.

Ramos was not there, the source said, adding that Cory "has not been warm to [Ramos] for some time now."

Wreath-laying on Ayala

Supporters and close family friends of Ninoy also offered a wreath at the lawn's monument on Ayala de Roxas and Ayala Avenues in Makati for the murder's 25th anniversary.

Ninoy led the wreath-laying ceremony along with Ninoy's brother, Manuel Jr., Bobi Aquino, as the Cory intervention in the financial district.

Other members of the August Twenty One Movement also joined in placing flowers on the wreath decked with yellow ribbons.

"It has become clear that changing the leadership is not enough to initiate change. Our new leaders should make sure that we are going in the right direction," Bobi said.

"Ninoy came back in 1983 to let us know and see what had ended. Justice and change, were absent," he said.

The 'Ninoy 12' seek pardon, forgiveness in Muntinlupa Mass

By Julie M. Aurelio

AS THE FAMILY OF SLAIN OPPOSITION leader Ninoy Aquino offered Mass on the 25th death anniversary, the men convicted of murdering him also prayed and absolved Aquino that Saturday, they too would seek God.

In a simple Mass at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) yesterday morning, Fr. Robert Reyes appealed to the Aquino family to take pity on the "Ninoy 12"—the soldiers serving sentences in connection with the assassination in 1983.

Presiding over the Mass, Reyes said, he has given the soldiers, Mayor-elect Jun Bonoguis and Aquino III to pardon his father's supposed killers, who are dying one by one.

"This Mass, in time with Ninoy's 25th death anniversary, is to appeal to the Aquinos, especially to Noynoy, to forgive and pardon the remaining soldiers in the Aquino-Dalisay murders," Reyes said.

"They have maintained their innocence and yet they are dying one by one. We wish for them to have meditation and patience as concerned groups work for their release," the priest added.

The Mass was held to climax the coma from the August Twenty One Movement offered prayers at the St. John Bosco Church in Makati yesterday morning.

Serious flaws and abuses

In the homily before incense at the NBP, Reyes surmised that had Ninoy been alive today, the opposition leader would surely lead the cry of the 12 remaining soldiers.

"We were a lawyer and source of the problems of the justice system during the Marcos era. If Ninoy were alive, he would surely be most concerned about the serious flaws and abuses in the justice system. If he were alive, he would surely lead the cry of [the] men," the priest said. (Ninoy was murdered in Aquino—Ed.)

In a phone interview, Reyes pointed out that "the innocent criminals in jail, the Ninoy 12 included, continue to languish because the real culprits were there to suffer."

"To Del, undoubtedly came like the Aquino-Galman case and the shuddla I see in this dark mist, because they need some attention, while the unknown have none," Reyes added.

Reopen case

Reyes also prayed for the eventual reopening of the Aquino-Galman case in order for justice to be done served, not just for the Aquino families but also for his supposed killers.

"We commend others anyone, whether innocent or guilty, to suffer for the crimes of those who evade justice because of the power and influence they wield," he said in the homily.

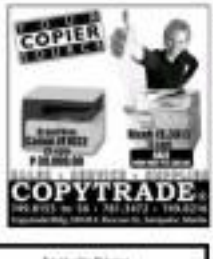
"I heard Ninoy's advice, to continue to endure for love, because only where our enemies can we be free. Twenty-five years may seem for us short to purchase for between those but what can we say if innocent men languish this long or even longer?" the priest asked.

The aging Ninoy 12 soldiers incarcerated at the national penitentiary—on the island President Macapagal-Arroyo for clemency, and for the Aquinos to forgive them for a crime they claimed they never committed.

Another hearing for the soldiers, Reyes likened the jail murderers of the Ninoy 12 who also attended yesterday's Mass.

Last year, M/Sgt. Melo Mutiano was granted pardon and was able to walk out of prison a month before Christmas.

But in March this year, another one of the soldiers died—77-year-old Sgt. Mario Lesaga, who succumbed to a heart attack in prison.



3 ex-Presidents pray together . . .

Also on page A-2

and Joseph Estrada kept to themselves during the hour-long Mass, not even glancing at each other's direction.

But as the media hot way to the door after the Mass, Cory greeted both in lift pads, who in the past years, and shook hands with the predicted ex-Chief Executive.

Considerable in the front row, Ed Inda looked his usual casual in a white linen-g and black pants while opposition Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay decked in his white with the crowd with his yellow shirt.

The three leaders were not the only ones who were seen keeping some distance from each other.

Mayor Lito

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who was recently ousted out of the opposition Partido ng Bayang Pilipino (PMP), also allowed a respectful distance from Estrada, the ousted-judged PMP leader.

The gray-haired Lim, a known supporter of Cory, was seated some five rows from Estrada and Binay, his comrades in the political opposition.

"I have the highest respect for President Estrada," the Manila mayor said.

Asked about his choice of top and visibly apart from Estrada replied, chuckling: "Di ako nila ako pinupot eh, si Senap daw ako (I was asked to sit by the front row)."

Cory sat with her family members from Estrada, while Estrada's wife Loi, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago and former Sen. Ernesto Maceda at the left portion of the St. John Bosco Church in Makati.

Other personalities at the Mass were Guillermo Luz, Teresita Kallingal's Tony Meloto and Ekumbuhayan Rep. Nadia Montano.

People in yellow

Despite the star-studded "cast," ordinary folk, mostly wearing yellow T-shirts, polo shirts or blouses, went to church in droves to pay tribute to the Aquino family and remember Ninoy's contributions years ago.

The churchgoers applauded Ninoy's widow three times during her speech after the Mass, even standing up to show their support for her.

Looking a bit unsure and hesitant to move during the program with cameras around her, Cory kept to herself during the Mass and communion.

Kris Aquino was not immediately recognized by passersby as she walked with her fellow ex-Presidents.

Handshake with Estrada

Cory was nearly mobbed by photographers trying to take pictures of her handshake with Estrada, who commented his appreciation from group and media.

Cory was also seen saying "Hi" to her immediate successor, Fidel Ramos, who wore a gray suit despite the heat.

Almost all the political leaders present at yesterday's Mass, despite their different political colors, agreed on the theme of the day—Ninoy's heroism and the need for unity.

"The presence of the three Presidents is not dumb it a good sign in looking back to the greatness of Ninoy," Defensor said. "It is also there with supreme example to the church.

Estrada called on all Filipinos to come together regardless of their political beliefs to remember Ninoy's ideals.

"We should unite regardless of our political affiliations ... Ninoy's greatness has united us today, it should be the source of our empowerment in the future," he added.

Visit to Manila Memorial

Earlier in the day, Kris Aquino, James Yap and Cory—all in yellow—offered flowers at Ninoy's grave at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

The former President appealed to Filipinos to "pray for reconciliation" and to help each other in the hopes of a better life, adding that it was what her husband had dreamed of.

The two-hour event was accompanied by Delos, Reyes and other members of the Liberal Party.

Reyes called on Filipinos to continue the fight Ninoy had started more than 25 years ago.

"If Ninoy were alive today, he would surely be saddened by the dire situation our country is in today," he said.

Cory also thanked all Filipinos who joined her in remembering her husband and asked everyone to work together or so that the country would develop and people would achieve happiness and find the truth.

Lunch at Puping's home

An Aquino source said Estrada was later invited to join the Aquino family friends and supporters for lunch at the house of the former President's brother, ex-Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, in Forbes Park Village in Makati.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region

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Philippine Airlines

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders' Meeting of Philippine Airlines, Inc. will be held on 28 August 2008 at 10:00 o' clock in the morning at the Kachina Room of the Century Park Hotel, at 599 P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila

For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company ID.

Corporate Secretary

World's fastest man admits he was nightclub king

BEIJING—USAIN BOLT'S EXtraordinary crowdbreaking feats here at the Olympics in the 100 and 200 meters have revealed him to do so with his unorthodox lifestyle—from trademark fist-and-chicken celebrations to his late-night fast-food chicken nuggets and juice.

The Jamaican, who turned 22 on Thursday, has admitted he failed initially to realize his natural talent as a runner—when aged just 15, he became the youngest ever world junior champion in Kingston—because he loved to go out and party and enjoy his favorite pastime of dancing.

"Regarding the partying, well you grow up and see the bigger picture," he confessed.

"It takes a lot of hard work and dedication. I decided it was time to change, not everything, only a little," added Bolt, who conceded that the partying was mainly focused on dancing and drinking.

Bolt, who like most Jamaicans played cricket until his coach recommended he take up athletics instead, has taken his feud-back courage onto the track, concentrating the crowd with his expressions of signature and impromptu tips.

"I just chill, I don't try and think too much about the race," said Bolt, who revealed that prior to the 200m he had eaten chicken nuggets.

"I just relax and try to think about cars or something like that."

The transformation in his attitude has come about ever since he linked up with coach Glen Mills four years ago.

Mills helped him to regain his self-belief after suffering several injuries.

"I never really destroyed, I secured a little bit after two years of injuries," said Bolt, who took his first senior medal last year with a 200m silver at the world championships.

"However, things changed dramatically when I joined up with Glen."

Bolt placed his faith in Mills with the coach advising on the wisdom of rebuilding upon double.

"He (Mills) is like a father figure to me. He has never done me any wrong and he has always made the right decisions," Bolt said. AFP

Mindanao ethnic sounds . . .

Homepage A2

and celebrated the life of the woman many fondly called "Tita King."

Mindanao ethnic sounds pervaded yesterday's grand send-off for a grand dame, Kuding, the 1989 National Artist for Music who died on Aug. 16 at the age of 90.

Held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), the final tribute was profitably the grandeur for a departed national artist. Kuding having been president and director of the CCP for 17 years.

The multisensorial Kuding broke ground by combining ethnic with modern music, marrying the talented with the accidental in the hundreds of compositions. This was probably her most important contribution to Philippine music.

Indigenous sounds go mainstream

As composer, researcher, educator and administrator, she brought indigenous sounds into the mainstream and introduced them in her creations.

And even as it was fitting that the two-hour finale tribute for Kuding would be bursting with the heady sounds of ethnic instruments and vocals, as well as a grand host of dancers set to her music. Among the performers were the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company, Philippine Women's University Music Ensemble, Philippine Madrigal Singers and Ballet Philippines. A big brass band played outside the CCP.

Draped with the Philippine flag, Kuding's silver gray coffin was transported on a flower-decked pedestal in the middle of the stage with her honor guards on both ends. The National Artists who offered flowers were Napoleon Abueva (visual arts), Virgilio Almario (literature), F. Sionil Jose (literature), Arturo Luz (visual arts) and Salvador Bernal (theater design).

'Special ears'

CCP president Emily Abrera described Kuding as "many things to many people" whose music was often called "eclectic, avant-garde, exotic" and "one has to possess a pair of special ears" to appreciate it. Ramon D'Bastos' paid tribute by presenting an Ifugao poem that was chanted by a group of young singers.

Former first lady Imelda R. Marcos came in a long black terno and spoke extemporaneously. A student of Kuding at Philippine Women's University (PWU) and founder of the CCP Singers made her maiden CCP bow and entered remembering the credited Kuding for putting on the CCP logo the three Ifs (Intelektuwal (Intellect), kaluluwa (goodness), kagandahan (beauty) using the ancient Filipino alphabet.

Former Sen. Helena Benitez of PWU, a close friend and colleague of Kuding's, recalled their early days.

Choral lamentation

Image-arrow Cecile Guidote Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), was the only one who spoke in Filipino and stunned the audience by suddenly breaking into a soprano (chanted lamentation).

Presidential Municipal Acronym Alburo "Feels a grateful nation" was read by the NCCA president, Ninez L. Lalusales.

Kuding's National Artist's medallion was turned over to her nephews and nieces. Jorge Adelberto Kuding Orchua gave the response on behalf of the family.

Nobody said goodbye to the Philippine music icon who also received the CCP Encyclopedia, sent from on Aug. 11. FVR Family members, however, said Kuding was born on Aug. 31, 1917.

Not goodbye

"Not goodbye but I love you," Lalusales said.

"For me, Kuding is alive," commented Director-Antitrilion conductor Helen Quinch told the Inquirer. "She is just on another plane of existence."

"Her memories after through her legacy," director said. "Siya ay alyansa ng musika, at siya ng musika (She is a goddess of music, a union of music)."

From the CCP, Kuding's remains were brought to the Manila South Cemetery where she was laid to rest at high noon.

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SMASHING JAMAICAN Usain Bolt smashes Michael Johnson's 12-year-old record in the men's 200-meter final on Wednesday to complete a historic world record sprint double in the Beijing Olympics. AFP

Bolt, 21, from who the track great was relieved still one of track.

"He is Superman 2," Johnson said on the BBC of the latest his record fall.

'My name is Lightning Bolt'

Bolt pointed to be known by another name.

"I'm tightning Bolt. I'm not Mark Gardner or anybody," he said. "My name is Lightning Bolt."

If overcoming foul Michael Phelps, watch Jim Usain Bolt and the Gamecocks watch the former try to.

Nine more Jesse Owens

Bolt equalized the world record for set at the 100.

It also made Bolt the sixth man to complete the 100-200 double and the first since Carl Lewis in 1984, but he was the first to also break the 19.30 mark world records. Not even Lewis or Jesse Owens could do that.

For a small nation of just 2.7 million people that has major crime and poverty problems—UN figures show it has one of the highest murder rates in the world—many of its citizens hoped the joyous unity triggered by Bolt would inspire a lasting legacy.

With his time of 19.30 seconds, Bolt not only dived .02 off the mark during in the 1996 Atlanta Games. Incredibly, he ran his personal best by a massive .31.

A virtual unknown

All was far behind him, defending champion Shawn Crawford went then fourth to taking silver in 19.96 after both Chamaidy Martina of the Netherlands Antilles, the original runner-up, and Wallace Spearmon were disqualified for running out their lanes. A second Jamaican, Walter Dix, got in case.

Never letting up, Bolt dipped at the finish line and easy he saw the second was gone, he fell to the track, his game legs and arms pointing every which way.

All from a man that was a virtual unknown outside his Caribbean island native ahead of this season.

He had scanned on a world record of 9.69 at the 100 on home but had promised to keep on, running this time, knowing Johnson's record was one of the most exalted in the sport.

No showboating

Clearly, the Bolt's first belonged on the super-cool flick.

He struck a series of poses as the television cameras settled on him before he took to his blocks but again he got away cleanly and was well clear of his rivals by the halfway point.

There was no showboating over the final stages, however, and he was not raised his fists and leaping on his before sneaking a glance at the clock as he crossed the line about seven meters clear of Crawford.

Posing, frolicking

But nothing a beyond the dimply-cheeked Jamaican—despite an Olympic diet of chicken nuggets.

Less than an hour before his semi-final performance, he was hooking and frolicking with his coach in the athlete tunnel, all grins and kisses.

While others pumped themselves up with screams of expectations, displays of chants or quiet mental gymnastics, Bolt, 21, from who the track great was relieved still one of track.

It was unlike anything seen in the races.

Incredible start

"We got an incredible race. I just went," Bolt, 21, from who the track great was relieved still one of track.

"It was a track that suited me. I got in the 100 meters and then his race was just absolutely fabulous."

Running in lane 4, he always had a good view of American rivals Walter Dix and Spearmon in the outside lanes. Crawford was just inside the roaring Jamaican. It was all a mirage.

"It's ridiculous," said former 100 meters world champion Kim Collins, who finished third. "He's doing it and making it look so simple. It's unreal. It's a record no-whipping we took."

Another gold beams

Bolt's silver-set-up Beijing takes another step on Friday when the men's 4x100 meters relay team at the Bird's Nest.

Jamaica is a dead gold medal for Bolt.

Bolt and his teammates nonetheless, including 100 sprint rival Asafa Powell, said the challenged by the United States and Britain in the final duels around the track with a another capacity crowd of 91,000 expected to be cheering them on.

If Jamaica wins, the Caribbean country will be rocking and reggae-ing again.

"Yes, extreme hatred, great coach," Bolt said when he won in the 200. Reports from AP Bonnie Grist AFP

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ka-Friendster
at sa lahat ng ka-Facebook ko!
mga kabarkada
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OPINION

Attrition

EDITORIAL

THE LAW IS SUPPOSED TO PRIMARILY IMPROVE the performance of the state's top two revenue collection arms and, more importantly, to at least minimize, if not totally stamp out, corruption in these agencies. Given the urgent need to raise government revenues to prop up a frail economy, its enactment was supposed to make those tasked to enforce it feel its sincerity. But it took more than three years and the combustions of a congressional report, a Supreme Court decision and media vigilance to prod the officials concerned into giving the law a little push.

And so the other day, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves directed the commissioners of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to submit by Sept. 30 their bureaus' respective list of under-performers who are liable for dismissal under the law (Republic Act 9335, also known as the Attrition Act of 2005, offers officials and employees of the BIR and BOC a system of rewards and punishments, depending on whether they exceed their annual revenue goals or fail to make the targets.

Despite the incentives the law offers, the BIR consistently fell short of its targets for 2005, 2006 and 2007. Yet no BIR official or employee has been dismissed pursuant to RA 9335. Neither did the BOC make it in 2006. It surpassed its target in 2006, but it missed again in 2007. Customs Deputy Commissioner Rey Umali sought to justify his agency's collection shortfall in 2007 as the result of unrealized economic assumptions used in setting the target for the year, like the lower-than-expected peso-to-dollar exchange rate. As to the BIR, no Customs official or employee has been fired under RA 9335.

Senior officials are said to have held back the implementation of the law because of questions over its constitutionality. The Alcibiades Diaz Party List sought its nullification because it would corrupt the BIR and BOC people's sense of duty to serve their country with integrity, loyalty and efficiency and transform them into mercenaries. The Bureau of Customs Employees Association (BOCEA) opposed the law's penalty of dismissal, reasoning out that it "defeats the government employees' tenure of office."

The Supreme Court ruled last Aug. 17 that the law is constitutional. "It was enacted by Congress pursuant to the strong presumption of constitutionality," it stated. "To justify its nullification, there must be a clear and unequivocal breach of the Constitution, not a doubtful and equivocal one."

It is high time to implement the law, said Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez, head of the House of Representatives' committee on ways and means. "The BIR and BOC commissioners and their respective officers should be vigorous in fully implementing the law, instead of looking for loopholes to circumvent the penalties provided therein," the committee said in a report submitted to the Department of Finance last month.

Yet in 2007, the law or some provisions thereof were implemented when the BOC rewarded Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales and hundreds of its officials and staff for exceeding its 2006 collection target, in complete disregard of legal questions that remained unsolved until then.

It is no surprise, therefore that Teves' response to the congressional report is seen as something that was "triggered" more by media reports than by an honest resolve to enforce the law. Others say it reflects the administration's true attitude toward corruption, if not the finance chief's helplessness in fighting graft and inefficiency in his department.

But who's really to blame? Outside political interventions make some unscrupulous tax collectors "untouchable" and some of them get back to influential positions soon after they are sued. Cases filed against smugglers and tax evaders are more quickly forgotten than prosecuted.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has questioned the rewards given to the Customs officials and employees, saying that the BOC exceeded its 2006 target with its payments for 2007 that were advanced by oil companies. The finance secretary is probably aware that some district collectors and revenue officers, to meet their collection quotas, have resorted to this questionable practice.

All this has shown that RA 9335 doesn't seem to achieve its objectives. And given the BIR's and the BOC's record the past three years, it is doubtful if the law excites its prospective beneficiaries into working harder. After all, with the law, they can have their cake and eat it too.

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SC should vacate Meralco decision

THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN. NOW THAT GUERRI-

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

The MILF also took advantage of the good heart of President Fidel V. Ramos. While AFP soldiers were constructing irrigation canals for Camp Abubakar on orders of Ramos, the MILF removed the canals into bunkers and used them as trenches for the soldiers. When are we going to learn?

Even Misuari, chair of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) that started it all, is puzzled. He said he can't understand why the government negotiated with the MILF when it already has a final peace accord with the MNLF signed in Tripoli in 1996. "The MNLF is the official representative of the Instrumento people in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)," he said. As a result of that Tripoli Agreement, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was born. The ARMM is still governing with its own territory and elected Muslim officials in just held its last election), exactly what the MILF wants except that it wants a bigger territory that includes Christian communities and more powers are allowed by the Constitution.

The MILF was a breakaway faction of the MNLF. After the peace agreement with the MNLF, the MILF launched its own rebellion, although peace talks with the Philippine government and almost had its own territory and government. After the MILF gets them, maybe the faction of Commander Bravo and Kato will launch their own rebellion and demand their own territory. After them will come the Abu Sayyaf and other groups.

There is already a similar but more autonomous region for Cordillera tribes. Maybe they will demand a bigger territory, too. After them will come the Bicolano, then the Cebuanos, the Ilonggos and the Bisayas and the Esperanza-ngans. There will be no end to it until the Philippines is nothing but a cluster of small fiefdoms just like Europe in the Middle Ages. When will we ever stop all this foolishness?

* * *

The larger the investigation into the Court of Appeals scandal unravels, the more the corners rise and the reputation and credibility of the CA, the next highest court of the land, drop lower and the people's faith in the justice system is dealt another blow. Also, it is becoming more evident that the decision on the Meralco case was not the result of an objective weighing of the evidence and a mature deliberations of the facts. Now the more media members of the Supreme Court should see that that decision penned by Justice Ventura Ynares should be vacated and new hearings conducted by a new set of justices so that a more credible decision can be promulgated.

For when a running out of the hearings are like the creatures that flew out of Pandora's box. Unfolding before the public in the principality of how ethics in public office has become honor. As if the blunders of the executive and legislative departments are not enough, more chilling allegations of anomalies committed by our honorables in court appointments are being exposed. Today it is Justices Jose Sabio and Baizas who are in the glare of the spotlight. Who knows who will be in their places in the future?

Let's look at Sabio now and then at Bunag in the next column. To say that there was nothing illegal nor improper in PCSO Commissioner Camilo Sabio calling his brother, Justice Sabio, to influence his decision on the Meralco case is disturbing. It is even more disturbing that Justice Sabio did not find anything wrong with this effort. But by the same token as any admission, his brother is criminally liable for trying to influence and attempting to interfere with the judicial process of no less than the second highest court of the land. (To be continued)

Misconceptions in Spratlys debate

LAST WEEK I GAVE A SERIES OF LECTURES on the "Disputed Islands in the South China Sea and South-East Asia" at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Peace Palace, seat of the World Court. While my lectures focused on the larger shells and results in international law, there were occasional questions on the controversy in our local debates on the contested Spratly islands.

One, we tend to fuse and confuse two separate bodies of law that are relevant in the problem. One is the traditional law of territorial sovereignty; the other is the more modern law of the sea. One determines title over land territory; the other partitions the resources of the sea (including the submerged land, or to use jargon, the continental shelf and sea bed). The Spratly islands are made of land, quite obviously, and of water. Title over these islands has to be established only under the first body of law, not under the second. Whoever owns the land owns the surrounding sea.

The irony is that the Spratly islands are barren, largely uninhabited (except for soldiers garrisoned by their respective states), and economically inconsequential by themselves. Therefore the remaining states covet the islands mainly because of the "maritime zones" they generate under the law of the sea. We must treat the two issues separately.

Take for instance the most galling of the Spratly claims by the Philippines, namely the Chinese military presence on Mischief Reef. The law of the sea makes a distinction between islands, uninhabitable or economically useless rocks, and submerged reefs. Islands generate an extended Exclusive Economic Zone. Barren rocks and reefs don't. If our interest lies in the surrounding oil fields, who cares who owns a reef? Oil deposits are part of the package deal only if Mischief is an island, not a hostile "maritime hazard." Mischief Reef presents no such economic value.

But maybe we want the island for strategic reasons, military or navigational? Maybe we worry about a foreign army stationed too close to Palawan. Maybe we fret over the projection of China's naval presence way beyond the waters mentioned. Then suddenly whether island or rock, it doesn't matter: we want to own it – not for any purported EEZ, but for use so that we can militarily base or as a point for drawing our baselines.

Now it's a different ball game altogether. Mischief is not even an island or rock. It is a submerged reef artificially built up by external users. As the World Court showed in a May 2008 decision, it is carried not into land under sovereign title, but as a mere "maritime feature," a resource of the waters. I stated above that, with islands, whoever owns the land also owns the waters. With reefs, it's the other way around: Whoever owns the surrounding waters, owns the reef. Assuming that we insist on our title over Mischief, we should make full use of the World Court's recent ruling.

Two, the Philippines loves to cite the argument of proximity. Indeed, Mischief Reef is just one clear day-sailing. But let me remind everyone that that same argument was thrown out in a leading case authority, the Island of Las Palmas case, dealing with the Philippines, of all countries. By relying on that argument, among others, the Philippines actually lost the island way back in 1928! Worse it weakened the ongoing nullity of the "Treaty Lines" drawn in the 1898 Treaty of Paris by which Spain ceded our country to the Americans. So why keep repeating a tired and tested failure of an argument?

Maybe we should learn our lessons and find better ways to transform the undeniable fact of contiguity into a more formidable argument of law. Other international courts have creatively done so, and under those tests, we might have kept Las Palmas, now called Miangas, a part of Indonesia. For instance, even today, republicans that Miangas villagers are more closely tied to the Bisayas by language, family and livelihood. That would have weighed more heavily than the territorial claim of mere proximity.

Finally, it is time to celebrate that the China-Philippine-Vietnam Joint Marine Seismic Agreement was implicated in the scandals triggered off by the ZTE-NBN turkey scandal, and even worse that Malacañang took unconstitutional shortcuts in its illicit haste to sign. In most of the world, including our many Asian neighbors, joint development agreements are seen as the way to go, especially where the maritime borders are uncertain or in case of common petroleum deposits. The unsettled districts of sovereignty can be gradually yielded to unrequited economic zones (though I bewail the trend away from arena-and-settled rules, toward the ad hoc, the pragmatic and, I add, the utility-reality).

I have taught abroad many times in my career and I consider teaching at The Hague Academy a truly prized honor. The only other Filipino who has lectured there is Justice Florentino Feliciano, now retired from the Supreme Court and earlier from the Iran-Pakistan Commission law firm, and co-author at Yale Law School of Mentores World Public Order, with professors Myres McDougal, founder of New Haven's "policy-oriented" approach.

As a Filipino teacher, I know that once is not a friendly country for teachers and scholars. There is a culture for practicing most of the world, they who can offer rewards to the hale and hearty. For the Pinoy teacher, exchanging viewpoints has traditionally declined a debate to one of the free perks. For the nation, however, it is no imperative. We must escape the intellectual inertia of our colonials. We must remain competitive globally. And we must muster that PE spirit (pinoy extension) must shoulder to shoulder with other elite academics.

* * *

Comments to pasigriver@yahoogroups.com

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

No safe exit deal with Musharraf

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF OF PAKISTAN resigned from office on Monday rather than face impeachment after ruling the country for nine years under a military dictatorship. Musharraf who seized power in a coup in 1999 stepped down under pressure from the governing parliamentary coalition. It was an unusual exit for a military leader who had ruled longer than most elected by military dictators or dispotic men classified of in 60 years of history. His resignation departed from the usual pattern of military governments losing power in military coups.

Since seizing power, Musharraf dominated Pakistan's politics. The main opposition party that won the Pakistani base blamed the rising violence in Pakistan on Musharraf's alliance with Washington.

Impeachment is a process of removal from office normally associated with democratic systems, but the threat of impeachment against Musharraf materialized after opposition parties won last February's parliamentary elections, mobilizing him while removing for his resignation in clamor that has been prominent in Philippine democracy since 2001). Coalition leaders started the impeachment campaign in July.

Musharraf's resignation was announced his post as army chief of staff to become a civilian president, under international and domestic pressure. This, together with his party's defeat in February's parliamentary election, significantly dipped his authority. The main opposition party, Nawaz Sharif, since interfering in politics. In November 2007, he declared state emergency rule across Pakistan, suspended the constitution, imposed a state of emergency and fired the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Pakistanis have been asking whether there was an immunity deal for Musharraf. There were reports that he was seeking guarantees that he would not face criminal prosecution or be forced into exile.

"There is no deal with the president, and he had himself resigned," said Law Minister Farooh Naek. Coalition leaders said they would press for Musharraf to face accountability and want him tried for treason.

Pakistan media reports have suggested that Musharraf might leave the country for security reasons, as he is despised by Islamist militants and is very unpopular among ordinary Pakistanis.

But his ensemble ally in the war on terror, Washington, has distanced itself from him. Undersecretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Musharraf's future was "an internal issue."

Coalition leaders would not say whether he might be granted a "safe exit." Speculations, premised that he might go into exile in Saudi Arabia or Turkey. The United States is a country he has said he has been ruled out, if the United States refuses to give him asylum, it would be so ordered out.

Rice has said that while Musharraf was a "good ally" who kept his word when he stepped down as army chief, whether he should resign is "a matter for Pakistanis to determine."

* * *

Suicide poll survey results. Three presidential aspirants — Vice President Noli de Castro, Sen. Loren Legarda and Senate President Manuel Villar — have specified to an early lead in polls taken over the past 10 months in a race marked by volatility in the survey taken by the Social Weather Stations from September 2007 to June 2008, De Castro scored 31 percent; Legarda, 26 percent; and Villar, 23 percent. The distance between the top scorer and the lowest scorer (predicted ex-President Joseph Estrada, who polled 11 percent, stood at 20 percentage points. Seven months later in the June 2008 survey, with 23 months to go before the May 2010 election,

From 23 percent in September 2007 to 33 percent in March 2008, De Castro went down to 31 percent in June 2008. From a good start of 99 percent in September 2007, Legarda dipped to 24 percent in June 2008. Villar started at 18 percent in September 2007, climbed to 27 percent in December 2007 and dropped to 23 percent in June 2008. Sen. Panfilo Lacson started out as well as Villar, at 18 percent, but dropped to 16 percent in June 2008. From 12 percent in September 2007, Sen. Francis Escudero rose to 19 percent in March 2008, and dipped to 11 percent in June 2008.

Sen. Mar Roxas started at 9 percent in September 2007, and spurted to 20 percent in December 2007, but dropped to 13 percent in June 2008. Senate Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile started at 7 percent in September 2007 and dropped to 4 percent in June 2008.

Some of the scores is identified with the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, indicating the tongue of the electorate a year and a half before the 2010 election. Recent data showed a considerably rising trend to indicate momentum building up. As of June, the list has narrowed from nine to seven, but the race remains too crowded.

Among the three front runners in June, De Castro led four points from March 2008 to June, Legarda four points over the same period, while Villar gained eight. Lacson also gained four points from 12 percent in March to 16 percent in June. There are no indications of slippers, which means, for pointers, the race is up for grabs at this point. The aspirants can be trumped anytime by celebrity events.

What can we do for Ninoy?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS DATE LOOMED GLOOM. THE SAD picture, figures more heavy-set, even stooped. But the sight of Ninoy Aquino's face, whether in person or in the days and months after Aug. 21, 1983, symbols of hope amid our grief for the man who was then on the runway.

Many of those faces were present at the Mass for Ninoy on Saturday, marking his 25 years of to his death. Many others are gone, though in the commemoration of the events of that day and afterward, they were to have to our memories, still powerful, still vigorous, giving voice to our collective rage.

Most prominent of all was Cory Aquino, Ninoy's widow, looking frail and vulnerable, who spoke a little artfully about wondering whether today's generation still has the capacity to feel outrage the same for the unjust and his lies on the PDR fall. She was grateful by efforts like "summer," to compel that once the last senator was gone to convince young people to view events in this country through fresh eyes. "Summer" and "let us remember" be championed during life and especially after his experience of incarceration and exile.

The campaign asks nothing more from us, but especially the younger generations, than to engage in debate. Should the "Ninoy Aquino" in each of us "Ninoy" now taught how supporting retailers, the stores will set aside a portion of the amount by designated charities, specifically those working for peace and development. But more than generating money for others, Ninoy campaign is about the evening (if not evening) awareness of who Ninoy was, what he stood for, and why he died.

* * *

ASKED why he was making his life by choosing to fly home to the Philippines from exile in Boston, Ninoy said he believed "the Filipino is worthy dying for."

Organizers of "summer" are not asking all heroism to die for their country, as Ninoy did. But they ask that we live for it, through participation in one's citizens, in care in our own ways does how much we believe in the Filipino, in ourselves.

If "the Filipino is worth dying for," perhaps we can also say that the Filipino is worth paying for the right leaders for, worth voting wisely and honestly for, worth engaging our garbage for.

The Filipino should at least be worth challenging our traffic rules for, worth denouncing graft and accountability from officials for, worth standing up to bullies and influence-peddlers, fixers and takers for.

If Ninoy exhorted up the courage to defy a dictator, we can certainly work up the curiosity and sustain the indignation roused by the many scandals and cases of corruption that have cropped up in recent months. If in the wake of his killing we found the courage to take to the streets, we can certainly today speak up for those who continue to suffer, to be silenced, to be taken and to be killed.

There is certainly a "Ninoy Aquino" in each of us. And in honor of Ninoy's 25th death, we need only remember what our world would be like if he hadn't made the decision to come home and defy the odds. And we need only ask ourselves why, 25 years after his sacrifice, we find ourselves where we are right now.

* * *

BISHOP Socrates Villegas, himself looking gaunt and many hours set in contrast to the hotels fig. on his use in Asian Cardinal Jaime SIN (RIP), said on Thursday in reference to the days from Aug. 21 to Aug. 31 as a period to remember and pray for "three years of freedom, truth and democracy." They are, of course. Ninoy his old, as Cory who inherited her husband's mantle of leadership, and his "pro-Cardinal" yes, whose 80th birthday we also to this year.

The bishop-diplomat-lawyer-theologian-of "today-soon" and his many meanings, from faithfulness to constancy, from friendship to standing by one's friends and duties. "The nation for which Socrates Ninoy died needs katapatan," Bishop Soc declared. "We need to be faithful to our word. We need to bring back truthfulness. We need to become friends again and heal our land. This is the healing [and] that our task nation needs."

The Bulatao (Batasan) premise was not the absolute ending the dark for saving the events of 25 years ago and the current political situation. "If our nation is to be healed and if we truly want to live in a true democracy," he said, "we must learn to live in the truth without the mask of executive privilege. If we really want to honor Benigno Cory, we must demand from our government transparency and honesty. We must for the Philippines a true program of government and not a plan that plays for the sake of those in power, rebellion of the people of the poor."

* * *

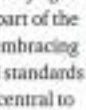
REMEMBERING the courage of Ninoy's Memorial Mass and of other events meant to mark his death, I am astonished at my own forgetfulness. Not that I hadn't, for many commemorations postponed, all of us alive and aware 25 years ago remember the full details of the moment we heard about Ninoy's assassination. I was at home as I recall, with the TV on in the background, when the single-the TV channels where I channel upon news. And age of soldiers dragging Ninoy's corpse from through the tarmac.

But I remembered so much more, was the wash of grief and anger, the adrenaline rushed as much by defiance as by bitterness, the desperate hope that kept protesters going even in the face of tear gas, water cannons and bullets. I felt betrayed and insulted.

I felt betrayed and insulted. Cory looked and spoke at the Mass, her features softened perhaps by the struggle she has had to wage against cancer the last few months, but also maybe by her own faith and conviction. And if she would speak about finding a positive view amid the widespread betrayal of Ninoy's legacy, then maybe we can all find the good in today's sacrifice, and the continuing commitment to the ideals that made it possible.

Breathe easy about Beijing

WORLD VIEW



Achim Steiner

IMAGES OF THE BEIJING SKYLINE SHROUDED behind in a soup of smog and haze have been a constant sight on the world's TV screens in recent days and weeks. Images prompted by the fact that hold air pollution doctors have been popping up on screen concerns shocking levels of soot and dust. Everyone seems keen to stress that the city's air will be a decisive and debilitating factor for one of the world's most high-profile sporting events.

Not only that, Beijing is having a smog challenge. There are real and understandable concerns for the health of competitors, especially those in endurance and long-distance events such as cycling and the marathon.

But the current frenzied focus is marked by amnesia. Barely 20 years ago, air pollution was a major concern in Los Angeles 24 years ago, though few now seem to recall the dramatic scenes at the end of the women's marathon, when the Swiss competitor was seen staggering and stumbling from exhaustion, the heat, and, perhaps, the effects of pollution. And the Australians who ate an issue for subsequent Olympic Games in Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney and Athens.

So the debate about the Beijing Games deserves more fair play than it has received.

Indeed, real and, one hopes, long-lasting achievements are being made by the Beijing organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, the city as a whole, the government, and the six provinces concerned. This is all the more remarkable when set against the city's double-digit economic growth and the fact that the Games are being staged in a fossil-spike country, with all that means for economic health, environmental challenges this entails.

For example, some 200 polluting factories have been closed, switched to zero kinds of clean air production, or moved out of the city over the past seven years. Moreover, as a result of a \$17 billion investment, more than 70 percent of the city's wastewater is now treated, more than 50 percent of the city is forested, and national gas accounts for more than 80 percent of energy generation, up from roughly 45 percent in 2000.

Meanwhile, eight new railway lines, covering 200 kilometers and with a daily capacity of close to four million passengers, have been added over the past year, alongside 60 kilometers of bus lanes. New vehicle emission standards meet the most stringent equivalent European standards, and are higher than in the United States.

In addition, 30,000 old taxis and 10,000 buses have been replaced, and 60 percent of the taxi fleet are powered by natural gas—now the largest fleet of its kind in the world. In recent days, the authorities have also requested businesses to stagger the working day before, during and after the Games to reduce traffic volumes, alongside a call of other traffic-calming measures.

These efforts will be supported by an airlift of the Olympic venues themselves, including the 680,000 sq.m. Olympic Village, where water reclaimed from the Qinghe sewage treatment plant is being used for heating and cooling systems, resulting in an estimated 60 percent savings in electricity consumption.

Only time will tell if all these measures will bring air pollution down to acceptable levels. The United Nations Environment Program will certainly make this a focus of its post-Games report, building on the initial one issued in 2007.

But it is clear that Beijing is striving to be part of the Green Team, embracing environmental standards that are now central to the modern Olympic movement, and that are increasingly part of other big sporting events, such as the latest Goals for the 2006 soccer FIFA 2006 World Cup.

Intentional public pressure, the ability to showcase new and more sustainable ways of managing an urban setting, and the legacy of more environmentally friendly energy, transport systems, and other infrastructure should also not be underestimated.

Nonetheless is currently engaged in a far-reaching and urgent competition that pits the need to embark a twenty-first century "green economy" against the rapid implosion of our climate and natural life-support systems. The catalytic and inspirational possibilities of events like the Olympics must be harnessed to the full, and Beijing might just help persons us from staggering and collapsing under the weight of our environmental degradation.

Project Syndicate

Achim Steiner is undersecretary general of the United Nations and executive director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which is co-chairing the Beijing Organizing Committee on environmental issues.

'Superstitions'

MY LAST SHOPPED-WORD I HAVE THE TITLE OF THE ARTICLE in the Sunday magazine "Superstitions." "A absence of superstitions." As an anthropologist, especially someone who teaches the subject, I always emphasize that we should be very careful about using that term "superstitions." Now, here was a title using the term, and the article was . . . mine!

My fault, actually. On top of this twice-monthly column, I've been writing, since

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

1988, a column in the Sunday magazine (now a month). I enjoy doing the articles, which tend to be on lighter topics than these. And, since I've written 1000 words instead of the 1000 for this column). But doing the Sunday articles means an even tighter schedule for writing, and there are times when I just can't think of a title anymore, and leave this to the editors.

Anyway, I thought I'd grab this chance to tackle "superstitions" itself, as a concept. The Oxford dictionary defines the term as: "unreasoning awe or fear of something unknown, mysterious, or imaginary, especially in connection with religion . . . an irrational religious belief or practice; a trust, scruple, belief, etc. founded on fear or ignorance."

Anthropologists look at the beliefs and practices of a society, and how these translate into social practices. But we're very reluctant to dismiss these beliefs as "irrational" or attributing them simply to "ignorance" because such judgments would be ethnocentric, meaning based on our own culture, which we presume to be superior to other people's. We're quick, for example, to call other people's religious "superstitions", not realizing that our own practices might also be viewed by others as strange and irrational.

Rather than using the label "superstition", anthropologists choose more neutral terms—for example, "cultural beliefs"—to refer to beliefs and practices which seem to defy explanation. But the term still describes the object which apparently defies explanation at all. But they can be explained through history, environment, social structures.

Getting on books

I'm going to draw on my article "dozens of superstitions" (blush, blush) to show how we go about these cultural riddles. I chose it not necessarily because it's the most interesting but it was in print and therefore handy when I was writing. In the Philippines, we do the opposite, taking our the books to protect ourselves from the sun.

We take that practice for granted, but it amuses, sometimes shocks, foreigners. Many consider books a economical antidote to the tropical sun. For example, I grew up being told by Chinese elderly relatives not to eat with my left hand (supposedly especially the bacteria . . . UK, UR, I confess. I added this part) because it was disrespectful, literally, "devious." They never told me why (an omen I supposed to eat on published materials but now, as an anthropologist, I can see that it was a way of inculcating a respect for knowledge and learning, exemplified by the printed word).

Now, all that can actually seem superstitious, a form of idolatry. We'll argue that if it came it's more important to protect Juanito's textbooks (Juanedlo) than saving the book. We don't realize that our own prevalent belief about transcending reality is considered a superstition by non-Filipinos, and the practice of spiritualism, and other medical professionals at least. I've seen Filipino doctors using their heavy medical books to protect themselves from the lethal rain.)

"Superstitions" (using quotation marks makes it acceptable to anthropologists) are often based on coincidences, which are transformed into an explanation of causes. Therefore, Filipinos who believe that the sudden absence of colds and other respiratory ailments increases during the rainy season, (somewhere in time, our ancestors began to attribute the ailments to the rain itself, particularly to contact with the head. Many cultures, including our own, stress the foreignness to be weak, maybe because it's rob to children. The increase in colds during the rainy season is due to the air surface will begin to cool, and in some societies, mothers actually try to stick up the bathroom with their mouths, not realizing that what's needed is to get the child more fluids.

Our fear of rain comes out of correlating even a shower to a cold. The correlation is correct, but the conclusion of "rains cause colds" is wrong. Instead, the rain is responsible for a biomedical explanation is that rain makes us cool to shelter, usually in a place already crowded with other people, increasing the chances that we will come in contact with people who already have colds and catch their virus.

Modern superstitions

Colds and illnesses are always fertile new superstitions, including modern ones. Many of us take megadoses of vitamin C when we feel a cold is coming; are medical studies have never been conclusive about vitamin C's efficacy for those colds (in fact, for that matter, many other illnesses which the rain claims this can cause, some people will claim, from personal experience, that after taking C tablets, they don't get sick). Do you ever you actually had a cold coming when you took vitamin C? Maybe what you thought was a cold was just your respiratory system protecting Manila's pollution, and which would have cleared up anyway, even without vitamin C?

Anthropologists do keep an open mind, and medical anthropologists like myself will still physically and "holistically" try to keep track of these "superstitions," sometimes to explain them.

"Superstitions" are powerful because culture is mobilized to propagate them, lower year when the 70 Chinese lunar month comes around, many Chinese will venture inside about 8 feet of water, even though the water is relatively still for months, as part of the rites to submit a memorial to Dragon, many other ghosts roaming the earth and looking for victims. The victims, told around, stock and family gatherings, reinforce the belief that indeed, the 7th lunar month is laden with risks. The Chinese side of my brain tells me to be extra careful during the month, but the anthropological part tells me that one day I should perform a ritual to offer Wednesday's month that's so feared. In China, it'd be the summer, and maybe summers increase risks for certain health problems.

Apart culture, we find this preoccupation with explaining accidents, illnesses, misfortune. We track down our ancestors' experiences, and we try to find out what we might have done wrong, and what we might do next. Sometimes, we wonder about how rational these beliefs and practices are, we keep them going, passing them on to another generation, because deep down, we don't want to take chances. Risking unnecessarily, we say in Filipino. Nothing will be lost.

Anthropologists reserve judgment about these practices, but we don't necessarily accept them either. We're around as well to explain the underlying rationality of these practices that may, sometimes is seems safer to stick to this "nothing lost" philosophy. But nothing lost could also mean nothing gained.

* * *

Email: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

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'Piece of paper' now ripe for review

LETTERS

I'VE ALWAYS HORRIBLE THE LEGAL NUMBO of Fr. Joaquin Bernas, especially when it comes to Constitutional law, like a statement in his Aug. 11 column...that he is not sure whether or not the question on the constitutionality of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) is ripe for judicial review—seemed below his usual analytical prowess.

Like President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Supreme Court justices have the sacred duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of our republic. The power to review the acts of the Executive and the Legislative belongs only to the Supreme Court, which has the power to invalidate any action of the two departments that may be incompatible with our Constitution or that might have been done with grave abuse of discretion.

Does the MOA-AD violate our Constitution? Certainly yes. For this reason alone the question is already ripe for review.

Moreover, as I wrote this, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front is already implementing the MOA-AD by usurping territories, displacing families (and raising its own flag to date). Has the Philippine sense of the Bangsamoro from our republic. As far as the MILF people are concerned, the deal is done and they have now a separate state.

If the Supreme Court decides that the MOA-AD is not ripe for judicial review, then it would be abdicating its ordinary duty to uphold and defend our Constitution. It would leave the rest of the Filipino people with no other recourse but to defend this country from being dismembered.

I have a very high regard for the Court as the guardian of our Constitution.

—BEN ESTOCO, bmc_estoco@yahoo.com

To whom was Locsin directing his outrage?

IN THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE COMMITtee on suffrage, Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. was among the congressmen who stood for the enfranchisement of the Aeta, 11 electorate in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as demanded by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to give way to the changes to be effected by the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by the Philippine government and the MILF.

Take note that not one of the congressmen had read the MOA at the time the committee was voting on the postponement. And yet, as I clearly remember, Locsin kept on pounding on the idea that no one may have read the MOA but giving vent to it by canning the MMM electronic serial manufacturer by the most unlikely legislators act in the universe.

A week later, Locsin raged:

"Heck, if all but one Filipino were to vote to give away a part of our country so that it becomes a separate country, they would all be wrong and a singular voice opposing it would be right. God damn the bastards who want to give away part of our country just to keep a pitiful rebel minority." (INQUIRER, 8/14/08)

That was loaded. I just wish he knew exactly who he was referring to.

CHAR ARELLA-CHACON,
Gil Ice mail@yahoo, Kristiyanong Kabataan para sa Bayan Movement,
jadegemion@yahoo.com

When vested interests in Cebu gel

TWO RELATED EDITORIALS AP-peared in the business on two successive days.

The first asserts: "The aggressiveness of Salpicio Limo... [sic] does not mean a thing to us [sic] or to any liability... only goes to show that we do not have the rule of law only the rule of lawyers... (sic) the shipping line fear (the shameless) have to bail out by filing suits and motions before the courts to stop investigation of her and the up potential orders in litigation." ("Thinking up to Salpicio," INQUIRER, 7/13/08)

Reason's the second: "(The list of [45] accidents Salpicio Limo has figured in [since 1980]... [does] not mean a thing to us [sic] or to anyone. (and the public) have paid (the price) many years and thousands of lives ago." ("MRT franchisee," INQUIRER, 7/14/08)

The compilation of the combined armed intruders of the "poor little rich Cebuanly" (as owners of Salpicio Lines, to take in more and more profits), the Christian sources of Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblon (in accordance with President Macapagal-Arroyo) he bet "to give a little resistance to keep the Gen from straying to death"), the enterprising businessmen of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Cebu (to derail financial facilities for their beneficiary "if they deprive[ed of access to Salpicio's cargo holds"), the mindless Cebuano congressmen. On "gunging up on government bureaucrats, instead of moving in on the 'culprit' shipping firm") and the national officials (who by allowing Salpicio Lines "to continue the mainstay of its operations, which is cargo shipping"), points to one thing, as well as the first editorial and others and: in the second "(t)hat we seem to lack the political will to... (unquote)." Salpicio's franchise," (let overrides and) protect the public (as well).

Economic avarice of a few and "that the public allows it" (as aptly "all (point) to a culture that confuses one's own interests with the public good." (not also aim to justify a way that attributes one's own selfish, vested interests for, or as, the good of all.

—ISABELINA A. VILLONCHA,
1791 B. Tuazon St.,
Sta. Rosa Heights, Quezon City

Plaza Miranda's forgotten victims

WE READ WITH A FEELING OF chagrin and disappointment the interview with Judy Araneta-Roxas, by Cesary Lutic Dizon, (8/11/08) about the Plaza Miranda bombings during the presidency of the early days of the Liberal Party on Aug. 21, 1971.

It was most unfair and a disservice to the other candidates and other LP members on the stage who were also seriously wounded in succeeding years. Every Roxas, Jovy Salonga and Mar Roxas are as if they were the only victims of that bloody incident. There was also Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing and his candidates for Vice-Mayor and councilors, our fellow candidates for senator Eva Estrella Kalaw, Chu Chu Soriano Magsaysay, the late Gulpada Pete Quirino, Jovito Quimella, the late Melchor Singson and others.

There were many others on that stage who also sustained wounds and still carry pieces of shrapnel in their body. It is only fitting that these people should merit even a mere mention by the country people who perhaps outside Cheto has important and powerful.

There are a thousand and one stories and secrets about that incident which are better left untold today, as there are political originals and sealed books which one day shall be opened for our people to know.

—ROBERTO ROMERO,
former senator,
203 Force Bel-Air Towers,
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Frank M. Drilon

What You Should Know About the MOA on Ancestral Domain Between the Government and the MILF

What is the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD)?

The MOA-AD is a memorandum of agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines ("GRP") and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front ("MILF"), which came about because of the Tripoli Agreement executed in 2001 between the GRP and the MILF.

What is the Tripoli Agreement between the GRP and MILF of 2001?

The Tripoli Agreement of 2001, signed on 22 June 2001, provided the framework and the guidelines for the conduct of peace negotiations between the GRP and the MILF.

In it, the GRP and MILF tried to resolve three issues in the peace process: (a) ancestral domain, or the Muslims' historical claim of the southern Philippines as their homeland; (b) security arrangements in MILF areas; and (c) rehabilitation of communities affected by armed conflict.

The MOA-AD contains the terms and conditions agreed upon by the GRP and MILF on the ancestral domain aspect of the Tripoli Agreement.

What does the MOA-AD say about the ancestral domain owned by the Bangsamoro people?

Under the MOA-AD, there is created a Bangsamoro homeland and historic territory referring to the land mass as well as the sea, land and airspace embracing the entire Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan geographic region.

Does the MOA-AD affect the legitimacy of the Republic of the Philippines? How?

Yes. The MOA-AD questions the legitimacy of the creation of the Republic of the Philippines as a result of foreign colonization and the granting of independence to its inhabitants in 1946.

It identifies a "distinct people, with a distinct identity, occupying a distinct territory" which were forcibly disposed or displaced. It distinguishes the Bangsamoro people from the Filipino people and creates a Bangsamoro Homeland within the territory of the Republic of the Philippines.

It also ignores the Philippine Constitution, which is not even mentioned in the MOA-AD.

If the Bangsamoro homeland includes the present ARMM, what will happen to the ARMM government?

The ARMM will be replaced by the Bangsamoro Juridical Entity ("BJE"), which shall have the authority and jurisdiction over the ancestral domain and ancestral lands and natural resources of the Bangsamoro Homeland.

Is the creation of the BJE authorized under the Philippine Constitution?

No. The BJE is not an authorized political unit under the Philippine Constitution. It is not merely a local government unit as it exercises powers that are greater than those given to other local government units.

It is also not merely an autonomous region since it does not operate within the framework of sovereignty or territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines.

The Constitution provides that local government units and autonomous regions shall be under the supervision of the GRP. But according to the MOA-AD, the Bangsamoro Homeland's relationship with the GRP would be merely associative, characterized by shared authority and responsibility.

What will be the BJE's authority over the natural resources within the Bangsamoro homeland?

1. Jurisdiction and control over all natural resources, potential sources of energy, onshore and offshore;
2. Full economic jurisdiction over all its internal waters;
3. Joint jurisdiction, authority and management with the GRP over its territorial waters, which means that the BJE must agree if the GRP were to conduct the following within its waters:
   a. Exploration and utilization of natural resources;
   b. Establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;
   c. Marine scientific research;
   d. Protection and the preservation of the marine environment;
   e. Conservation of living resources;
   f. Regulation of shipping and fishing activities;
   g. Enforcement of police and safety measures;
   h. Regulation and control of contraband and illegal entry of prohibited materials and substances, including smuggling.

What happens to the permits and licenses granted by the GRP/ARMM?

The BJE is allowed to unilaterally revoke or cancel all existing permits, concessions, and titles granted by the GRP/ARMM, particularly:

1. Forest concessions, timber licenses, contracts or agreements in the utilization and exploitation of natural resources, including strategic minerals, mining concessions, Mineral Production and Sharing Agreements (MPSA), Industrial Forest Management Agreements (IFMA), and other land tenure instruments of any kind or nature whatsoever;
2. All proclamations, issuances, policies, rules and guidelines declaring wild growth or natural forests and all watersheds.

Can the BJE by itself conduct foreign relations? What happens if BJE is allowed to do so?

Under the MOA-AD, BJE can conduct its own foreign economic relations without supervision from any GRP authority. It can enter into agreements with any foreign country. The only exception is if the agreement will constitute aggression against the Republic of the Philippines.

The BJE can also fully participate in any border negotiation of the Republic of the Philippines, as well as in all international meetings and events, i.e., ASEAN meetings and other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

What are the immediate legal effects of the MOA-AD?

The MOA-AD is immediately binding by its express provisions, upon signing by the parties.

It is not a mere listing of consensus points but a firm agreement to be witnessed by the Malaysian Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, to be endorsed by the special envoy of the Organization of Islamic Conference, and to be further witnessed by the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In fact, many countries were invited to its aborted signing ceremony. Some of the provisions of the MOA-AD have effects, and some of those effects are immediate, in international law.

What are the effects of the MOA-AD in international law?

1. It confers recognition on Bangsamoro people as a distinct people, with a distinct territory, with a fairly sophisticated political organization, conducting foreign affairs and entering into treaties;
2. The "First Nation" was unlawfully dispossessed of territory they held from time immemorial, and that the present Republic of the Philippines continued this dispossession requiring compensation;
3. The purpose of MOA is to entrench this distinct people in its historic homeland so it can maintain its distinct identity vis-à-vis the rest of the national communities;
4. The Republic of the Philippines could be construed as recognizing that BJE to be created is but the continuation of the prior state that existed before the unlawful occupation of foreign and mainland invaders;
5. If the MOA-AD is construed as a recognition of the BJE, a unilateral declaration of secession by the MILF may create a new state;
6. The conflict in Mindanao is further internationalized, possibly justifying foreign intervention.

Many of us support FEDERALISM as a means of empowering local governments for progress. But this MOA-AD is not about federalism. It lays the groundwork for secession.

We support the right of our Muslim brothers to self-determination, but this should not come at the expense of our country's sovereignty.

We also question the timeliness of amending the Constitution now, during the last stage of the present administration's term.

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CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A three-governorate organization led by a former city councilor, a delegate of long-time provincial candidate Lilia Pineda launched yesterday a recall campaign against Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio, voting loss of confidence to the governor's leadership.

Rene Hernen, president of the Kapunsalan Panlilio Ning Mamalen Pampanga Inc. (KamPaMa), said his group aims to gather in two months the signatures of at least 200,000 registered voters in the province.

That number, which is more than 10 percent of the 971,000 voters who registered in the May 2007 elections, meets the requirements of Resolution 7820 of the Commission on Elections, he said in a press briefing here.

The same resolution exempts him of candidacy as a ground for citizens' initiative to oust an elected official, he said.

Panlilio is the first Pampanga governor to be subjected to a recall campaign. The move came almost two months after the lapse of the one-year ban for the filing of a recall petition.

"The grossest argument for this [recall move] is that Panlilio's own administration is saying that he failed them," Hernen said.

Reading from a prepared statement, he cited three cases filed against Panlilio at the Office of the Ombudsman and Comelec.

The first is a case for gross negligence filed by the provincial board in relation to the non-implementation of a new quarry ordinance, which the governor said was unconstitutional.

The second pertains to a case filed by Dr. Eddie Punio for violations of the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers after Panlilio reshuffled the directors of hospitals.

The third case involves a perjury case filed by losing gubernatorial candidate Ely Pamintuan over misdeclaration of election funds. Panlilio asked the Comelec to dismiss this case due to lack of evidence and substance.

Hernen said the issues included what he called the Panlilio administration's "inaction" to the province's worsening power crisis, the alleged anomalous transaction of Panlilio's lawyer Atty. Jesus Dato, and Panlilio's alleged "midnight appointments" of his allies in the provincial government.

Interviewed by phone on Thursday, Panlilio said Kapunsalan Panlilio's recent moves were only an announcement to the media.

"We have to monitor the developments in the next weeks until [the petition] is officially filed with the Comelec," he said.

He said the issues cited as bases for the loss of confidence have yet to be resolved by the proper courts.

"Our fellow Kapampangan must reform and that's what we have been trying to lead and institute all these months. The recall move is not about me. It is largely about our crusade for good governance," he said.

Panlilio's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, said the recall move would fail politically and legally.

"Politically, people will reject it. And legally, it cannot prosper because there's a pending protest against Panlilio," Macalintal said by telephone.

But Hernen said Panlilio has failed at unifying local officials.

"He has no clear-cut direction and programs of action. And of late, the factioning has spread among his own supporters," he said.

Hernen, a former board member, said Pineda was not financing Kapunsalan's recall move.

"She has nothing to do with this. We work on donations. Truth is, this might even negate her recount case against Among [Ed] Ed," he said, referring to a case pending with the Supreme Court.

Panlilio won by 3,167 votes over Pineda.

Candaba Mayor Jerry Pelayo, Pampanga Mayors League spokesperson, said the mayors have yet to meet and discuss the recall campaign. Rosario Ovejera, Inquirer Central Luzon

PANLILIO with fellow prima, Gerry Delos, at a recent forum. GERVACIO LACSON

DND chief gives highest combat award to colonel slain by rebels

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ROLO CITY—DEFENSE SECRETARY Gilbert Teodoro on Wednesday conferred the highest combat award posthumously to slain Lt. Col. Angel Rentero.

Teodoro gave the Distinguished Conduct Star to Rentero's widow Maria Rosa in an unannounced visit to the house of Division at the slain officer's residence in Barangay Tabor Soba in Jaro District, Iloilo City.

The award is the highest combat medal given to military personnel for bravery and gallantry in action, according to Lt. Col. David Tan, public information officer of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

Rentero, 45, executive officer of the 102nd Army Brigade, was killed with other soldiers when Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels ambushed them in Lanao del Norte on Aug. 18. He was the highest-ranking soldier killed by Moro rebels since 2003.

Teodoro, along with Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and top defense and military officials, arrived past 6 p.m. on board a military plane and proceeded to the wake of Rentero. They left for Manila around 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Cookie said her husband's mentor (classmate) at the Philippine Military Academy (class of 1980) agreed to give the medal to the soldier's bereaving wife by Teodoro.

She welcomed the award given to her husband.

"We are thankful that Secretary Teodoro and other officials took time to come here and give this medal. It shows that we are not alone and that it is important thing for our children," Cookie told the Inquirer in a telephone interview after the medal was given.

Cookie said Teodoro assured her that justice would be given to her husband and that the government would not stop until those responsible for his death would be punished.

Teodoro said Rentero would be given full military honors on his burial here on on Aug. 30, according to Cookie.

The government will also provide financial assistance to the family. Rentero and Cookie have four children aged 9 to 21 years old. With a report from Dharnah Emery, Inquirer Visayas

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Gov orders police to shut down STL in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—ALBAY GOV Joey Salceda ordered the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to halt small-game lottery (STL) operations in the province following allegations it is being used as a cover for the illegal numbers game "lotteng."

In a statement, Salceda said he instructed Senior Supt. Joel Bolora, Albay police director, to immediately convey to the PCSO his directive to shut down STL operations in the province.

Salceda also cited provincial media reports about the alleged underdeclaration of STL bet collections.

Bolora, in a mobile phone interview, confirmed having received a directive from Salceda but claimed no knowledge of the reasons behind it.

However, he said he believed it had something to do with the attacks made by antigambling witness Sandra Cam against four Bicol governors last week, which got published in some tabloids.

Cam accused Salceda and three other Bicol governors—Sally Lee of Sorsogon, Jesse Typoco Jr. of Camarines Norte and Luis Raymund Villafuerte of Camarines Sur—of being responsible for the revival of gaming in the region.

She also said these governors were being protected by "high-ranking officials of the Philippine National Police and the Department of Interior and Local Government."

She said other politicians were banking on jueteng money to fund their campaign in the 2008 elections.

'Guerrilla-type'

Salceda did not address Cam's accusation in the statement and refused to grant further interviews.

Bolora denied the existence of organized jueteng in Albay but said there could be "sporadic-type" operations in remote villages, where people think they could not be monitored by authorities.

He added that they were ruling during reports that STL operations were being used as a front of jueteng.

"There are reports of 'bookies,' a cohesive where bets below P10 are not being remitted to STL and are instead being drawn outside," Bolora said.

He said they had arrested some people claiming to be in-charge of STL bet collection but lacked proper IDs.

Lawyer Joel Tesoalita, president of the Philippine Pacific Rim Corp. (PPRC), which runs STL operations in Albay, said they thank Salceda for recognizing it is the PCSO's discretion to shut down STL operations.

"STL is a national project and it would take only a [national-level] memorandum to stop it," Tesoalita said in a mobile phone interview.

No benefits

He denied allegations that the PPRC was being used in illegal gambling.

"There is no economic benefit [if we were to involve in jueteng]. We are the legal operators of STL. We operate in the open. We are in the mainstream. We are legitimate business people," he said.

"Also, there are big risks. Our license could be revoked and that does not commensurate any gain if there is," Tesoalita said.

Early August, PCSO-Albay lottery operations chief, said they requested Salceda's directive but the PSCO has yet to receive an official, black-and-white copy of it. *Zyhraizen Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Tarlac museum offers view of intimate life of Ninoy

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

THE TYPEWRITER that Ninoy, a journalist, used to plot a diligent at the museum. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

LUISITA INDUSTRIAL PARK, Tarlac City—There's no need of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. around—cars airports named after him, his image on P500 bills, statues and streets.

But a museum in this industrial park beats all in giving an authentic and intimate life of the icon of democracy whose murder 25 years ago inspired Filipinos to oust dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The museum, which is the centerpiece of the Aquino Center, is easily accessible from Metro Manila. From the Manila-North Road (Maharlika Highway), it is only 30 meters from the entrance of the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac City.

Opened daily since its inauguration on Aug. 21, 2000, the 18th anniversary of Ninoy's assassination, public viewing has been curtailed since recently on a special appointment basis.

Guest book

But the guest book showed it is a favorite destination, with many guests, mostly students and tourists, from all of the country, including foreigners, stopping here.

Architect Dan Lichauco, a nephew of Ninoy's widow, former President Corazon "Cory" Aquino, designed the building and the museum.

The museum's three upstairs rooms house memorabilia, the mementos helps the visitor discover the real Ninoy.

The museum's door opens to a corner with old photographs of the families of Ninoy and Cory, who both grew up amid wealth and good reputes.

The next section focuses on Ninoy as pre-martial law years before 1970. Only 17 but already a journalist, he displayed courage by covering the war in Korea for the Manila Times in 1950.

A set of black and white photographs showed him negotiating the surrender of Huk leader Luis Taruc as the latter hands of Mr. Pismbo in 1954, during that task as assistant to President Ramon Magsaysay and getting two medals for bravery in peace.

The year 1955 saw his political rise to start shining, becoming the youngest mayor of his hometown Concepcion at 22, vice governor at 26 and governor of Tarlac at 30. As a politician, he was hands-on, always mingling with his constituents. The Ten Outstanding Young Men chaired in 1960 confirmed his worth to public service.

By 1967, Ninoy was already a senator but not after handling efforts to ban him from the race due to his age. He did not only win a seat but also rose to become secretary general of the Liberal Party.

He was saved when he arrived late in Plaza Miranda where the opposition was having a bomb explosion on Aug. 21, 1971.

Ogian Sagittarius

Days after he exposed the "Ogian-Sagittarius," a plan by their President to install martial law by staging bogus attacks and two days after Marcos declared martial rule on Sept. 21, 1972, Ninoy was arrested.

He spoke of that episode personally through his letter dated Nov. 6, 1972, and written from his cell to then Archbishop Pio Santos in Tarlac 1787 at Hilton Hotel in Manila a few minutes after midnight "while in the actual performance of duties in service of the Republic," was, he said, on the order of then defense secretary Juan Ponce Enrile.

The other letters revealed his anguish and unexplained hope during solitary confinement.

That he underwent religious conversion while jailed is what is now Pro-Magnificat in Puerto Rico is expressed in a letter on June 10, 1973, and which he typed starting 10 p.m.

When death was at hand, through a sentence to die by firing squad, he wrote to lawyer Godfrey Gutierrez on April 7, 1975, at 6:45 a.m.: "Death after all is not a calamity to be the one who dies. It is a calamity only to those who he leaves behind, for death is a deliverance, joy, eternal peace and bliss."

Hunger strike

Ninoy fought within the confines of his cell, launching a 40-day hunger strike from April 4 to May 13 in 1975 to protest the kangaroo court trying him for subversion and other crimes.

He ended the epileptic on Oct. 11, 1975, by writing Jaime Cardinal Sin, who officiated his 25th wedding anniversary with Cory "Nice Reminiscence, only you can find our smiles through the dusty."

It was Sin who called for Ninoy to Pinoy when Cory joined Marcos Negros preaching troops who sided with Enrile and Philippine Constabulary chief Fidel Ramos in February 1986.

A section of the museum features a replica of Ninoy's three by three meters cell in Fort Bonifacio.

"Living inside" is how he called this space in a poem written on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973. Home to him from 1972 to 1980, it measured basic amenities given him after the release of Sen. Jose W. Diokno in 1974.

Here a man, at height and with a great political career ahead of him, survived being confined in this little space (cities pity and more.

A piece of a wall pared in the original cell, scrambled by Ninoy through a nail to keep track of the days, is hung in the replica cell. Writing, apparently, kept him sane through the ordeal. His Torquato typewriter sat on the kitchen table-turn-office.

From jail, Ninoy led the Laban ng Bayan (Labanl) ticket in Metro Manila for the Batasang Pambansa elections in 1978. He made only one request to Marcos in a letter Feb. 16, 1978. That his freedom of speech be restored.

The fifth in exile from 1980 to 1985 proved to be a short, sweet time for his family in Boston. In between, he won't be allowed, leading the anti-Marcos dictatorship campaign overseas. His return on Aug. 21, 1983, as "Ninoy" Benigno Aquino Jr. ended with a single bad shot to the head.

The brutality of his enemies is kept intact in Ninoy's blood-red jacket and undershirt. Those were in the custody of Dr. and Mrs. Lourdes Baguio in their house in Boston from 1981 until those were brought to the museum in 2001.

His undelivered homecoming speech read: "I return home to die and to an uncertain future with only determination and faith to offer—faith in our people and faith in God."

Bitter, sour 'vitameal' upsets women in 2 provinces

By Doreen Cabaya
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WHAT IS "VITAmeal" and why are mothers complaining about it?

The first is a combination of legumes, dehydrated vegetables and other grains and which is being served in feeding programs in some public elementary schools in Mt. Province and Abra—became the object of criticism of mothers who attended the regional convention of the women's group Kalahiyang Gabriela here last month.

The vitameal, they said, is placed the government's own-Kilusgutan not subsidy when classes started in June.

The women said they were dismayed because the vitameal was poor in taste and stored home to raise.

"I cannot believe that this is the kind of food that the government is serving our children. It's not edible. Some children throw it away and it's sad to see that it is thrown away," said Carol Bagnen, member of Hamalong, a women's group based in Mt. Province.

No labels

She said the vitameal is packaged in transparent plastic bags and there is no label.

She said three cups of the vitameal are distributed to students everyday, she said. Some mothers volunteer to cook the vitameal for the mass feeding program.

Bagnen said the mothers would boil the cereal with sugar, milk and strawberry powder to make its taste appealing to children.

"We would have to spend more to buy ingredients to make the meal edible, instead of saving money we have to spend more for sugar and seasoning," she said.

But Dr. Teresita Tinsino, head of the health and nutrition unit of the Department of Education in the Cordillera, said the distribution of the vitameal was one part of the government's hunger mitigation program in the province.

She said a religious group, which she did not identify, distributed the vitameal packs to Abra and Mt. Province.

"Our regional office is not even aware how this meal came about. This is not part of Deped's food for school program. What we heard is that this was a project sponsored by a pastor of a local church group that sponsors feeding programs," Tinsino said in a telephone interview.

Clueless

The vitameal did not pass through Deped. This group just "smelled like pigpen," she said.

Bagnen said even teachers were clueless about the source of vitameal.

"The teachers do not know who transferred into the vitameal and where it comes from. They just told us that the Department of Education ordered them to distribute the vitameal," she said in a press release here on Friday.

Tinsino said while the government has suspended the nor subsidy distribution in schools in Abra and Mt. Province, Deped is considering to remove the food for school program from this year.

Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, regional director of the Department of Health, said she was not aware of the vitameal distribution in the region.

DA asked to step into complaints of adulterated chicken dung

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Complaints of adulterated chicken dung sold to vegetable farmers have reached provincial officials, prompting calls for the Department of Agriculture (DA) to intervene to the chicken dung trade here.

Board Member Apolinario Caranzo said unscrupulous traders have taken advantage of farmers who have become dependent on chicken manure following the surge in the prices of commercial fertilizers.

"Farmers said sand, soil and rice hulls are being mixed with chicken dung sold to them," he said.

He said some farmers rail the adulterated manure as "Abu Tinap," a spin from the Abu Sayyaf Group.

"Abu" is slur or taboo and "tinap" means rice hull in Kankanaey, the native tongue among the province's farmers.

Chicken dung has derived as a good business in the province, especially now that prices of commercial fertilizers have soared from P800 to P2,000 a bag in the farmers' level.

A sack of chicken dung costs P150, up from P70 to P90 last year, but which farmers consider a manageable increase.

Big commercial poultry farms in lowland provinces are the sources of the manure brought and sold as "bark load" of trucks or sales load vegetables from the trading post here.

This town and nearby Tublay were the industry's trading centers until barely when town officials here decided to impose an ordinance that banned the sale of chicken dung.

But agriculture officials were lukewarm to Caranzo's request that they intervene and inspect samples of bags of chicken dung sold to farmers.

Gregor Blangge, Sentilan and Pesticide Authority chief in the Cordillera, told Caranzo that the DPA has no jurisdiction over the chicken dung trade since the commodity is being sold as a raw fertilizer.

"We can act only on processed fertilizer," he said.

Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Project Islam reaches out to Mindanao evacuees

BAGUIO CITY—A MINDANAO-based group has started rendering aid to families who are fleeing areas that have raged in some parts of the island since the secessionist movement broke out in 1969.

Gil Alfonso Macatan, urge commander of the Philippine Military Academy and founder of Project Islam ("I Sincerely Love all Muslims"), is trying to develop a network of volunteers to build a resource trust for refugees from Mindanao, now that revived conflict could increase the number of displaced families.

Macatan has been donating five sacks of rice weekly to families from Mindanao, and is now looking for pledges to help more families.

He said those families have not been able to find jobs and are only able to earn enough to put the second evacuees here.

"Dahil sa gumba ally sa Mindanao Wood ba family, inodigyan ako ng ng mga bigas pandagdag (instead of falling in line every day for packs of cheap rice at the local MA was rice, I just give them more rice to tide them over)," he said.

Macatan joined officials of Peace Tech for a press conference here on Tuesday.

Peace Tech is made up of scientists who help the Christian and Muslim youths using video-conferencing to establish continuing dialogues. Peace Tech hosted an international video dialogue in 2006.

A Peace Tech dialogue among Filipino youths is scheduled on Aug. 29, which would be followed by their first international dialogue between Filipino and Indonesian youths in February 2009, said Gil Soutlet, Peace Tech coordinator and theology professor of the Saint Louis University here.

Rebecca Abubakar, the IMA imam (Islamic scholar and cleric), Bendiat and Macatan have been training peace advocates, mostly local college students.

Abubakar said Peace Tech has no direct participation in peace efforts aimed at ending the latest conflict between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and would allow participating youths to discuss it during their dialogue by the end of the month.

Abubakar said over 13,000 families were made Baguio their home.

Many of the older migrants fled the previous Mindanao skirmishes that began when Nur Misuari, a founding leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), waged his secessionist campaign. Abubakar said Peace Tech volunteers during a recent workshop.

The last wave of migrants reached Baguio between 1999 and 2001, when about 60 families from Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur fled their homes after a series of clashes between government troops against the MILF, according to records of the Office of Muslim Affairs here. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

OLYMPIC reader Benjamin Abdullah, the Muslim pastor of the Philippine Military Academy, engaged 33 cross-faith teenagers from Baguio universities in a discussion about why Islam and Christianity can rule in Mindanao, during a preparatory seminar for the second international Peace Tech convention this month. The seminar was held on the eve of ARMM elections. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Steven Purugganan, the 15 year old Filipino World Sports Stacking Record Holder is in Manila for a special demo / exhibition on speed stacking as part of Bonifacio Global City's PASSION RUSH event on August 24, 2009, 4pm at the Bonifacio High Street.

His appearance is part of the city's line up of activities for Game Blitz, a series of demo games featuring speed cubes (August 17), speed stacking (August 24), and speed scrabble (September 7). Steven's participation in Bonifacio Global City's Passion Rush is supported by Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Int'l groups plead for 'Tagaytay 5'

CALAMBA CITY—MORE INTERNATIONAL groups are sending letters of appeal as the special trial court (RTC) judge handling the reclusion case of five farmers detained allegedly for being communist guerrillas, the wife of one of the accused said on Wednesday.

Loana Sarmiento, wife of Asis Sarmiento, one of the farmers who are also known as "Tagaytay 5," said groups and individuals based in Belgium, Hong Kong and Japan had sent Tagaytay RTC Judge Edwin Lacierda letters expressing the concerns of the five farmers and called for their immediate release.

Sarmiento said the Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission, Inhal Dimmitan at Action Alert in Belgium and individuals from Japan had been monitoring the development in the Tagaytay 5 case.

The groups also furnished some of the relatives of the Tagaytay 5 with the copies of the letters recently, she said.

She added that local groups, like the Idea Center Workers' Resistance Center, peace group Silaynon Inl and the Tagaytay Religious Association had also made an appeal to the judge.

Two years ago, Sarmiento and colleagues in the farmers' group Kalipunan ng mga Magsasaka in Bukid Ekumenikong Kal Asad Pinoys and Bon Gonzales, and bread drivers Ben Vitones and Michael Manuel were charged with murder and frustrated murder in connection with the killing of Gen. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and his driver Cpl. Jesus Cabrera.

The five, who were arrested in Tagaytay City on March 30, 2006, have been detained at the Batangas Provincial Jail in Batangas City.

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NEWSBRIEFS

■ NAGA CITY

Feast gets fewer sponsors

CDWCI companies have committed to become sponsors for the regional Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia feast, translating to less revenue from the annual fiesta, officials in the city said.

Rolando Mongaso Jr., chair of the fiesta committee on sponsorship and vice-chief of the Public Employment Services Office of the Naga City government, projected a total revenue from sponsorships of only P2.5 million this year compared to its peak in 2008 of P4 million.

In 2007, he said, the city grossed P3 million from the feast.

—Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ DAGUPAN CITY

Woman stabs 2 children

A WOMAN stabbed and wounded her two children on Monday inside their house in Dagupan, Pangasinan, police said on Tuesday.

Chief Insp. Napoleon Vinoy, Dagupan police chief, said the 27-year-old mother began stabbing her 11-year-old boy and 10-year-old girl at about 5 a.m. with a 15-inch kitchen knife, and was about to stab her youngest child, a 7-year-old girl when her eldest brother covered her.

The children's screams awakened their neighbors, who rescued the children and overpowered the mother, Vinoy said.

The woman, a thrift and sari dealer in Dagupan, was apparently depressed because of a problem with her husband, who has been working in Saudi Arabia. —Gabriel Cardinoza Aquino, Northern Luzon

■ BACOLOD CITY

Fertilizer cost probe sought

A LEGISLATOR from the third district of Negros Occidental said he likely is not alone in the town of Pagbilao in asking an investigation of rising prices of fertilizer.

Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson said he sought the investigations after sugar planters complained to him of the increase in fertilizer costs, which could be by an even as almost 120 percent.

He said fertilizer use was important because it helps increase crop yield by 30 to 50 percent.

—Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

■ SILAY CITY

Mayor faces raps over soda brand

THE MAYOR of this city and 13 other officials face criminal and administrative cases over the painting of two public markets with the Coca-Cola color and brand name.

Resident Jojo Sevilla and Jose Jorge Sevilla filed cases against Mayor Joel Montelibano and the 13 other officials at the Ombudsman for Visayas last month.

Montelibano said on Tuesday he could not comment on the complaint until he gets a copy.

The complainants said the mayor and the other officials virtually turned the city into a big advertisement canvas for Coca-Cola.

"Silay City used to be the provincial capital of arts and culture, and dubbed as the 'Paris of Negros,' but now it is dominantly called the 'city of Coca-Cola City' because its two public markets look like two cases of Coca-Cola," the complainants said.

—Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

■ EVENTS

Donation for 'Frank' victims

CHEMPOS Phils. Inc. (CPI, formerly known as Caltex Philippines), its parent company Chevron Corp., sister company Chevron Malaysia and the Filipino Employee Network (FENetwork) have pooled their resources to donate P1.2 million to survivors of Typhoon "Frank."

In a press statement, Chevron said it chairman and CEO recognized to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Bulk of the donations will be allocated to Panay

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DID YOU KNOW

ON AUG. 23, 1971, less than 48 hours after the Plaza Miranda bombing that killed nine persons and injured scores, then President Ferdinand Marcos issued Proclamation No. 889 that suspended the writ of habeas corpus. He declared martial law the following year.
Cyrill J. Bondoc, Inquirer Research

LRT lines lose P4M from fires

LGUS, firms asked to remove hazards near railway stations

By Rita T. Olchondra

THE LRT SYSTEM HAS LOST HUNDREDS OF thousands of passengers and millions in revenues as a result of six fires that occurred in a span of eight months near its structures.

Data from the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) showed that six fires led to eight days of partial suspension of operations.

The suspension affected some 287,000 passengers and resulted in losses of more than P4 million.

To avert similar problems in the future, the LRTA is asking local governments and other government agencies to eliminate fire hazards near the overhead train system's facilities.

Most affected by the fires was the Baclaran Station in Pasay City.

A three-day fire that struck Aug. 10-12 the Baclaran Terminal Plaza Mall beside its south side resulted in the displacement of 99,261 passengers and revenue losses of almost P803,000.

Losses

Two fires affected Carriedo Station in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The Aug. 4 fire that hit the eight-story Good Earth Plaza resulted in P1.2 million in losses and the displacement of over 84,000 passengers in just one day.

The LRT Libertad, Baclaran and Edsa Stations in Pasay City were similarly affected when the Pavegold Plaza Mall burned down on July 17.

A fire on June 20 closed the 5th Avenue station in Caloocan City for one day.

On April 18, the Carriedo and Blumentritt stations in Sta. Cruz, Manila were affected by a fire near Carvajal-way between Blumentritt and Abad Santos Stations.

A fire that struck the Galleria Bachelor Mall on Jan. 3 affected operations at the LRT Baclaran, Edsa and Libertad stations.

About 65,955 passengers were displaced and P803,230.86 in revenues were lost as a result of the blaze.

There were no fire incidents, however, in 2006.

Last year, there were nine in December, that affected 57,316 passengers and resulted in revenue losses of P561,183.

Combining the 2007 and 2008 figures, the LRTA said it had lost more than P4.6 million in revenues, and more than 334,000 passengers.

Meetings

LRTA Administrator Melquiades Robles said in an interview that the situation would be addressed in meetings to take place soon with the Department of Interior and Local Government and local government leaders in areas where LRT1 and LRT2 facilities are located.

Navotas offers free driving lessons for mobile patrol cops

By Nancy Carvajal

NAVOTAS CITY IS OFFERING free driving lessons to police officers after providing them new patrol cars.

City Mayor Toby Tiangco said the local government would pay for driving lessons of police assigned to the office.

Tiangco said the project was part of the local government's campaign to enhance police skills in fighting criminality.

He said that apart from the free lessons, the city government would also pay for the policemen's drivers' licenses for one year.

The mayor said every driver should have a license, whether or not he was a policeman.

Tiangco said the local government's support for law enforcers was meant to ensure that the city was kept safe, secure, and peaceful by a well-equipped and well-trained police force.

Before the new patrol cars were distributed, the mayor said he made sure police officers driving them had valid drivers' licenses.

Navotas donated recently 19 new patrol cars equipped with radio communication equipment and global positioning systems to the local police force.

City police chief Senior Supt. Eric Reyes said the local government's support was a morale booster for the police.

"We welcome every opportunity and endeavor that could enhance our capability to do our job effectively," Reyes said.

FIVE GOLDS FOR LAS PIÑAS CITY STUDENT
Veronica Enolva, a 13-year-old 8th grade student of the Southville International School, returned home recently with five gold medals after competing in the Asian Jose 2008 competition in Kuala Lumpur held from Aug. 8-14. The photo figure shows daughter of Myla and Myrna Enolva, has been dueling since she was 9 years old. Veronica has received 71 gold medals, 21 silver medals and 13 bronze medals from various international and national recruiting events. She is now training for the Asian Junior Championships to be held in October in Bangkok.
CHONG DIAZ-PITOL

Dispute over dump could be behind watchman's slay

By Marlon Ramos

THE KILLING OF A WATCHman on Wednesday in a Quezon City dump could have been an offshoot of the long-standing dispute over the control of a landfill in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal province.

Supt. Franklin Mojica Malinao, chief investigator of the QC Police District (QCPD) expressed doubts yesterday that the New People's Army (NPA) was responsible for the shooting of security guard Oscar Ramoya who was manning the entrance of the sanitary facility in Barangay Payatas.

Malinao said communist rebels were known to be "skilled and precise."

"If those gunmen were really NPAs, I'm sure nobody will survive that attack," he said, apparently referring to a Rodriguez government employee who was shot in the chest but survived.

Malinao said the southern probable showed "Vivo NPA" in masked police investigators. He said he saw no reason for the rebels to raid the dump.

Malinao said an NPA attack in the area was "simply impossible" as a composite team from the National Capital Region Command of the armed forces was just a few metres away from the facility.

The police official said they received information the shooting incident might be linked to the fight for control of the dumpsite located along the boundary of Rodriguez and Quezon City.

He, however, declined to elaborate, saying they were checking the sources of the story.

Supt. Lito Batoang, chief of the Fairmont Station of QCPD, said they were looking into the possibility that the watchman was killed by his former employer.

Batoang said the victim's widow, Rosalinda Ramoya, told police that her husband was fired from his job by his employer after he was caught sleeping while on duty

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ducoo

Jet inferno at Madrid airport kills 153

Budget Spanair plane veers off runway, breaks up and catches fire

MADRID—INVESTIGATORS ON THURSDAY scoured the wreckage of a Spanish budget airline jet that broke up in flames after a failed takeoff from Madrid airport, killing 153 people.

Priests and psychologists comforted distraught relatives through the night as questions were raised over how an engine of the Spanair MD-82 jet reportedly caught fire during takeoff from Madrid-Barajas airport.

Making its second attempted takeoff, the jet veered off the right of the runway before breaking up and fire quickly spread through the broken pieces. "Hell in Barajas," was how the Publico newspaper described the disaster on Thursday.

Some of the 19 survivors managed to walk away from the disaster, but charred bodies were left were a wide area in the field beyond the runway, rescuers said.

Flight JK 5022 was to take 162 passengers—including two infant and 28 other children—from Madrid to Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. Transport Minister Magdalena Alvarez said 153 people were killed and 19 injured.

It was Spain's worst plane disaster since a Boeing 747 belonging to Colombian airline avianca in Madrid in 1983 killing 180 and the worst in Europe since a Russian Tupolev Tu-154M in Ukraine in 2006 killing 170.

Alvarez said MD-82 had just taken off, but it was not clear if the back wheels had left the ground.

She said the plane had veered in the runway once, before taking back because of a technical problem, which caused a one-hour delay.

The two black boxes were found and were to be analyzed.

The authorities did not immediately confirm media reports that the left engine was on fire during the disastrous takeoff.

Initial reports said that fire in the engine may not be enough to explain the accident, and other causes may be involved.

Spanish media said the pilot had earlier signaled a malfunction in an outside temperature gauge, which was fixed before takeoff.

The 15-year-old plane was bought from Korean Air nine years ago and was overhauled early this year, Spanair said.

Secretary of State for Communication Steven Goldsmiths ruled out terrorism, saying there was "no doubt that it was an accident."

The head of Madrid emergency and rescue services, Benigno Carrid, said the bodies were scattered over a wide area, and some of the survivors were able to "walk away" from the accident.

At the airport, distraught relatives and friends of those on board were consoled by priests and psychologists. A Spanish flight brought relatives who had been waiting in Las Palmas back to Madrid.

Spanair, Spain's second largest airline after Iberia, released the list of passengers late Wednesday, but not their nationalities. Spanish media said four Germans, two Romanians, a Chilean and a Colombian were among the survivors.

The Sight: was a rendezvous with Lufthansa and the German carrier said four passengers from a Lufthansa flight had arrived in Madrid to take the Spanair flight.

SAS, the Scandinavian airline which owns Spanair, said a special team had been set up in Madrid. /AFP

A PART of the fuselage of the Spanair jet that crashed on takeoff at Madrid airport being lifted by a crane on Aug. 20. Only 19 survived the crash, Spain's most deadly air disaster in more than 20 years. —AP

B'day parties against Islam, says top Saudi cleric

RIYADH—CELEBRATING AN anniversary, birthdays or monarch's day is against Muslim "right observance," Saudi Arabia's top cleric has said, spanking suggestions by a colleague that Islam permits personal celebrations.

Muslin envoy cleric Sulaiman al-Mahmi told viewers during a call-in television show last week that celebrating birthday and wedding anniversaries were not against Islam, sparking a debate in the conservative kingdom and prompting the mufti to weigh in.

Grand Mufti Abdul-Aziz al-Sheikh said celebrating such events would make Muslims like followers of other faiths, including Jews and Christians, al-Madina newspaper reported.

Sheikh embroiler: Mahfuzeen, the headline Islamic doctrine that has ruled based on hand with the Saudi family since the kingdom was founded some eight decades ago.

Women are banned from driving and mixing with unrelated men in Saudi Arabia, whose clerics issue edicts ordering Saudis not to buy red roses on Valentine's Day as an almost sacred holy.

"A Muslim should thank almighty Allah if his children are healthy and if his married life is stable as the years pass by," the paper quoted Sheikh as saying.

Not content to call for celebrations in the Muslim world, Sheikh said: Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of the month, and Eid al-Adha, which marks the end of the annual haj pilgrimage. Reuters

Pakistan ruling coalition headed toward collapse

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party announced on Thursday to quit Pakistan's ruling coalition unless judges sacked by its coalition president were quickly reinstated—dashing hopes of an end to months of turmoil.

The turn came after a crucial meeting Sharif called personally in their home of Jiddah Shahbaz Sharif—who groups on who should succeed him as president and whether the former newspaper should face trial.

Already, the coalition's biggest bloc, the Pakistan Peoples Party, appears to be bidding up smaller parties to parliament in order to keep control of the government if Sharif pulls out.

"The future of this coalition is linked to the restoration of judges," Sharif's spokesperson Sadiqul Farooq said. "If our judges are not restored, we will prefer to sit on opposition benches."

Musharraf resigned on Monday to dodge the humiliation of impeachment following nearly nine years in power.

Diplomatic hope the politicians who pushed him out can turn quickly to tackling the country's problems, like extremist violence in the volatile northwest and deepening economic woes.

But the two allies have plunged into a struggle over how to restore dozens of judges Musharraf sacked last year to avoid legal challenges to his rule.

The maneuver deepened his unpopularity, propelling his 4-month-old party to a humiliating election for months ago, and turned the judges into controversial political figures—especially former chief justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry.

While Sharif has pushed hard to get them back on the bench quickly, Asif Ali Zardari, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, has called their restoration. /AP

12 killed in Algeria bomb attacks day after suicide bomber kills 43

ALGIERS—TWO CAR BOMB AT tacks in eastern Algeria killed at least 12 people, state radio said a Canadian employee reported on Wednesday with the country still reeling from a suicide bomber who killed 43 people a day earlier.

At least 31 people were also wounded in the latest attacks in the town of Boutra, one on a passenger bus and another near a military headquarters, Algeria radio said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but an al-Qaida group has staged several attacks in Algeria over the past year and has been involved in clashes with government forces in the oil- and gas-rich area.

One bomb targeted a bus packed near the Sonatrach, in the city center. The second bomb went off near the military headquarters in Boutra, which is 120 km southeast of Algiers.

The early morning blast blew apart the bus, killed the driver and other nearby buildings. A security source was immediately thrown around the centre of Boutra, witnesses said.

Twelve Algerian employees of the Canadian engineering firm SNC-Lavalin were killed and 15 others were wounded in the blast, the company said.

The SNC-Lavalin staff were traveling to work on the Soudiat Acerdoune water treatment plant and distribution project when their bus was attacked, the company said. The company employs 2,000 staff across the country.

"We want all our personnel to know that... health and security are the company's highest priorities," spokesperson Gillian MacCormack said. "We are working with the Algerian authorities to ensure the safety of our staff."

Boutra is part of a so-called "zone of death" it forms with Algiers, Tizi Ouzou and Boumerdes where attacks have been rife.

The attacks came only a day after a suicide bomber drove a car packed with explosives into a police academy in Algiers, killing 43 people and injuring 45 in more, also east of Algiers.

Most of those victims were university graduates waiting outside to take an entry exam to the ranks of joining the paramilitary police force.

World outrage and shock spilled as a second straight day of bomb attacks in Algeria took the death toll to 55 and injured scores of civilians.

US chief Bin Ki-moon condemned the attacks and urged the international community to back the north African country's fight against terror.

"He urges once again that the international community support the efforts of the Government of Algeria to combat terrorism," his office said.

"The secretary general firmly believes that violence will not deter the people of Algeria from the path of peace and national reconciliation."

On Sunday, armed Islamists stopped a secondary level car, one in Bidida, 500 km east of Algiers, killing eight police, three soldiers and a civilian, media reports said. /AFP

Kadhafi's reformist son Seif al-Islam seen as successor

TRIPOLI—SEIF AL-ISLAM, SON of Libyan leader Moamar Kadhafi, is increasingly seen as the likely successor to his father, despite publicly ruling out any dynastic ambitions to the north African country.

Although he occupies no formal political office, the 36-year-old Seif al-Islam wields vast influence.

In recent years, he has distinguished himself as one of the more dependable of the regime's cowboys, and a determined reformer, working to normalize Libya's relations with the West.

In August 2007, he announced wide-ranging reforms for the country, inevitably sparking speculation on the question of succession, even if he insisted "Libya will not become a dynasty or a monarchy over a generation."

Although he has now announced his withdrawal from politics, analysts believe the decision will have no long-term impact on the movements to the rational Kadhafi, who has been in power since 1969.

"I have decided no longer to intervene in state affairs," the 36-year-old told thousands of young supporters in the town of Sebha, 600 km south of the capital Tripoli late on Wednesday.

A Libyan student said he believed the announcement was part of Seif al-Islam's strategy to accumulate his role in Libyan society and would be a short-term withdrawal only.

Presenting himself as a humanitarian ambassador, both within Libya and outside the country through the charitable body he set up in 1997, the young football was at the heart of the complex mediation over the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor freed by Libya in July last year.

The six had been in prison for eight years, much of the time under sentences of death—after being convicted of infecting hundreds of children with the HIV virus that can lead to AIDS.

Seif al-Islam, whose name means the Sword of Islam in Arabic, has also intervened several times to intercede on a group of non-governmental bodies, including the Qaddafi Development Foundation. /AFP

OBAMA and his bride on their wedding day on Oct. 18, 1992. —

Poll: McCain, Obama are neck and neck

NEW YORK—SENATORS Barack Obama and John McCain are neck and neck in the presidential race, with voters focused overwhelmingly on economic issues but convinced the candidates are not paying enough attention to their problems, according to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll.

Slim majorities said neither candidate had made clear what he would do as president, suggesting that both need to use their conventions to provide voters with a better sense of their plans for addressing the economy, high energy prices, health care and national security.

McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, is still closely associated with the deeply unpopular President George W. Bush. Nearly half of those surveyed said that they expect him to continue the Bush administration's policies if he is elected. But voters, by a wide margin, view McCain as better prepared to be president than Obama, and as more likely to be an effective commander in chief.

Obama, the presumptive Democratic nominee, was trusted more by voters to handle their top concerns, the economy. Sixty-five percent of those surveyed said they were confident that Obama would make the right decisions on the economy, compared with 54 percent who expressed confidence that McCain would.

On foreign policy, the image was inverted: 66 percent expressed confidence in McCain to make the right decisions, and 53 percent in Obama.

But the economy—not national security—is shaping up as the greater concern this year. Poll 10 voters called it their top concern; only 15 percent cited the Iraq war.

Pocketbook issues—including the economy, jobs, gas prices and energy policy—were the leading concerns of more than half of those surveyed. Terrorism and national security, along with the war, were cited as most important by just under a quarter.

There were indications that both candidates have a way to go to assure voters on their personal stewardship of the economy: a majority of those who called the economy their most important concern said that neither candidate had made it enough of a priority.

The poll suggested that voters' uncertainty remained high within the group of either candidate. The race has tightened, and a head-to-head matchup notwithstanding—which is not predictive this early—shows the contest within the margin of sampling error, with 43 percent of those surveyed saying that they would vote for Obama, and 42 percent saying that they would vote for McCain. AYP

NIXON greeted by President Richard Nixon on Sept. 14, 1971. —

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Towards Safer and Cleaner Motoring

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

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AUGUST 22 (Friday)

AUGUST 23 (Saturday)

AUGUST 24 (Sunday)

Participating Brands

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Ateneo nips UE in OT; Maroons win** /A28

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

Now it's all up to Rivero

PAGBIT Anniversary Rivero Last hope

By Antonio A. Esguerra
Sports Editor

BEIJING—THE GIRL IN ATHENS IS A GROWN WOMAN NOW, but she will be carrying a familiar burden Friday as she tries to single-handedly rescue the Philippines' dying campaign, or at least give it a decent burial, in the homestretch of the 29th Olympic Games here.

Tougher and more mature. That's how Marie Antoinette Rivero has been described by the longtime leader and patron of the sport, Robert Aventajado, who four years ago watched the then 15-year-old pick up the Philippine banner in the debut of the 2004 Athens Olympiad.

Rivero now finds herself in the same situation, but she will be carrying a heavier load. She is up against a formidable opponent, Croatia's Sandra Saric, whom she makes her debut at the University of Science and Technology Beijing Gymnasium at 10 a.m.

In Athens, the then high school junior from St. Paul's Pasig was the last man standing for the Philippine delegation when she won her first two matches—against Marina Sanchez Bravo of Argentina and Charmie Sohrt of the Netherlands—and came within one win of clinching the silver medal.

But then, in the next round, she ran into the local Greek heroine, Ilkanos Stamoulou, and the wildly cheering hometown crowd and her echoic match. She went on to fight in the repechage for the bronze medal with an injury she kept to herself and lost to South Korea's Hwang Kyung-seon.

"Few people realize that she's just a girl and she was under such tremendous pressure to win," Aventajado said after her gallant stand in Athens. But she's a different person now.

"She's more mature now. And a lot tougher," Aventajado said Thursday. She

MORE A23

Wild judging foils Go's bid

By Ted S. Molondres
Sports Editor

BEIJING — HIS INSTRUCTIONS FOR SIBLINGS came all the way from the US West Coast. They seemed on the eve of the fight here to boost his morale.

As the lady one in the Go family still based in Manila, mainly in live out his passion for taekwondo, Tshomlee has always been his all-Ingis role model, their yardstick for perseverance.

So when Tshomlee crashed out on his very first fight at the Beijing Olympics here Wednesday, the rest of the family, his roommate, their coaches and the head of his national taekwondo association rallied around the devastated fighter.

So he didn't lose the fight, he got the shorter end of the judges' scoring, they all assured the third-from-bottom from Rwanda.

"My heart bleeds for Tshomlee, he fought his fight," said Robert Aventajado, president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association and chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"He prepared so long for the Olympics that it's hard to see him lose because the judges didn't give him a single point."

Aventajado said he understands why his fighter fought tactfully to avoid any head-to-head brawl.

"But (if) he'd hit Tshomlee with maximum force using footwork we all foresaw (Tshomlee was just warming up when the Australian surprisingly scored)," said Aventajado, himself a taekwondo black belter.

Coach Rocky Garnace said Go didn't deserve to lose because he knows the style of his foe, the more fighter he beat to secure his slot in the Olympics.

PICO A31

Ateneo nips UE in OT; Maroons win

By Jeanine V. Pava

ATENEO SURVIVES ITS toughest test yet with a 66-57 overtime escape against the University of the East yesterday to move within two wins of clinching the first semifinal berth in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Araneta Coliseum.

Mercy mapped up to the challenge starting with three-skipper Erick Ilo, who buried a triple with 13.1 seconds left in the fourth period to send the game into overtime at 56-all.

Rabeh Al-Hussaini, Ryan Buenafe and Nonoy Baclao then secured the last six points of the extension for the Eagles, who remained on top with a 10-2 record.

"We had to do everything right to win the game," said coach Norman Black. "We got behind both in overtime and regulation. It was really a comeback victory for us."

Earlier, University of the Philippines roared to a 75-62 victory over an Adamson side that benched its top three stars.

Miguel de Jesus shot 18 points to lift the Maroons to a 3-9 record, but it's the Falcons who get more of the attention by playing without seven-footer Jerramel Allan Santos and second-generation players Mary Agustin and Ibal Gonzalga.

"This is a disciplinary action, they did something that's not good for the team," said coach Joe Asoncion of the three players.

Al-Hussaini again came through by hitting 19 points—including one three-pointer that sent the Falcons Brainiacs with the lowest output since National University bowed to La Salle, 60-48, in July 2004.

"I have to make a statement to myself after parade preference [that no one can toy with me]. Since I've started coaching, I've been relying on my system. If there's somebody destroying the system, it's either me or them who should go," Asoncion said.

The Falcons dropped one of unsolved contention at 2-9.

The Maroons of coach Aboy Castro romped ahead, 64-26, in the fourth period.

Ateneo: [illegible]
UE: [illegible]
UP (3) – De Jesus 18, Dupaz 13, Sanz 10, Arayapan 8, Agbayani 8, Lopez 6, Mendez 5, Dela Peña 2, Mariano 2, Cu 2, Hinolan 2, Pedrosa 2, Sumagaysay 2, Bugarin 0

ADAMSON (57)—Quinain 19, Alvarez 7, Reyes 6, Ambon 5, Cabe 4, Bangalo 4, Ogilan 3, Pandino 2, Cabuhat 0, Lizada 0, Cabal 0, Cabada 0

Second Game
ATENEO (66)—Al-Hussaini 19, Ilo 13, Shiner 10, Buenafe 8, Salamat 5, Baclao 5, Jalen Cabahug 4, Lutz 1, Cruzada 0, Manuel 0

UE (57)—Canaan 13, Mathay 11, Yee 10, Ignacio 9, Andrew 8, Dupa 4, Lee 2, Rabe 0, Sangalang 0, Hachenberg 0, Pagsa 0

Quarterscores: 11-10, 28-18, 44-38, 57-57

Third Game
ADMU 64—Ad-Hussaini 19, Ilo 13, Shiner 10, Buenafe 8, Salamat 5, Baclao 5, Jalen Cabahug 4, Lutz 1, Cruzada 0, Manuel 0

UE (57)—Canaan 13, Mathay 11, Yee 10, Ignacio 9, Andrew 8, Dupa 4, Lee 2, Rabe 0, Sangalang 0, Hachenberg 0, Pagsa 0

Quarterscores: 11-10, 28-18, 44-38, 57-57

HEY-HEYS and supporters of the Barangay Ginebra San Kings jubilate after winning the championship game against Air21 Express Wednesday night.

'Fiesta' time for hurting Gin Kings

By Mayong B. Cardillo

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN SUNNY Jamsuchit was helped off the court in an ambulance and brought to a hospital to have his wounds treated. He returned and powered Ginebra to victory.

There was also a time when Mikhail Hadnett, that baby-faced rebounding and scoring demon, played with a torn jersey, but promptly did his job to make sure that Ginebra reaches another win.

And when could forget that heaven-beating Alfonsey Jaspon than Rudy Gutierrez in the early '90s that completed Ginebra's magnificent comeback from 1-3 down to beat Shell and Bobby Parks for the title?

They were bits of heroic plays that have enshrined Ginebra to an almost unbelievable identity among its fans with a newer batch of Gin Kings adding to the team's legend of resiliency after holding off Air21 Wednesday night for the Fiesta Cup title.

Ginebra won its eighth PBA title before close to 23,000 fans two nights ago, rising above adversity in its traditional stubborn way to get past an Air21 side that proved its worth as a rookie.

"We could have given up when Jayjay (Helterbrand) became injured," said a bubbly-soaked Jong Uichico minutes after the win. "We could have given up on a number of times when our players were down (because of injuries).

"But we didn't. This is a very special team and all credit goes to the players who promptly refused to lose."

Ginebra closed out the Express to a Game 7 reenactor.

With its forwardest star, Mark Caguioa limping up and down the court because of tendinitis in his knees, an old warrior who is not a stranger to waving ends up the stack and delivered like only he can.

Eric Menk completed his team's lone serious injuries with a performance that was practically not seen from him all season long. Banking with 21 points and 14 rebounds to eventually share Finals MVP honors with Donald Tsihlal.

After being on injured loop for six weeks and not being able to practice, the "Energizer Bunny" Tsihlal played the final four games of the series as if they were his last and infused energy on what Ginebra described as an inching, hurting team."

Ginebra came back from a 2-3 deficit to win, though it was not such an uphill task like that series against Shell. This one victory was made only special because wonders hope popping out even in the season's last game.

The sight of Chris Alexander being restored for courage to his left thigh late in the third period and returning to clean the job in the fourth will linger in the minds of the fans—be it pro-Ginebra or not—for a long, long time.

From Caguioa's gallant battle with pain and a disrupting MVP, defense will rock high up there.

And Tsihlal has earned a solid place in the league for coming back from a dislocated ankle to share the stage with Menk later on and crying after receiving the award.

"Truly, there were a lot of dips to remember in the rubber match. And if this team remains intact like most expect it would, this battle of Kings will go on to more pieces and pieces into their growing legacy that has defined the PBA of late.

CHRIS Alexander and Ato Ginaco give coach Jong Uichico victory tie.

Lyceum aces sweep UCLAA

THE LYCEUM OF SUBIC SWEPT THE United Central Luzon Athletic Association (UCLAA) recently to become the first team to advance to the regional championships of the Fourth Cluster Athletic League 2008.

Lyceum won all its five matches, beating University of Assumption Pampanga, Holy Angel University, St. Nicolas College of Business and Technology, Tarlac State University and Bulacan State University.

Assumption and Holy Angel tied for second spot with 4-1 marks, then 4-1.

Lyceum will compete in Region 2 (but includes the province of Pangasinan). The Region 2 champion will join the Region 1 winners, the NCAA fourth placer, the fourth NCAA runner-up and two wild card qualifiers for the coed championships in November.

Meanwhile, University of Northern Philippines is currently leading the cagers with seven straight wins in the Schools Colligate Universities Athletic Association League (SCUAL) tournament being held in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Champion League chair Ray Gamboa said there are 213 teams from nine regional areas taking part in the search for the best collegiate teams in the country. For details, visit www.CollegiateChampionsLeague.net

Batangas stuns Pampanga five

BATANGAS FIGHT (Alpha Division)
Lyceum—Pangasinan, Bicutan, Oriental
4 p.m.—Cebu vs. Laguna

PAMPANGA—RHY SANDERS LED A BIG fourth quarter surge by Lipa Batangas as the Bombers stunned the Pampanga Bulldogs, 91-85, in Game 1 of their Smart-Lipa Philippine playoffs last Wednesday at the University of Batangas city gym here.

Sanders buried the Bombers' team with 28 points and rounded over a telling scoring run in the final 10 minutes when the visiting Bombers outscored the Bulldogs, 34-28.

The duckfoot controlled the match for three quarters and held a 60-57 lead when the Bombers waited fast and turned the game around.

Pampanga national player Al Vergara accumulated 14 points and the end University of the East pair of JR Bonsubre and Ibrahim Camcelle added 13 and 12, respectively, but Lipa Batangas' attack took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five quarter finals.

The Bombers also host Game 2 before the series go to the Lipa Coliseum, gym in Batangas for Games 3 and 4.

Solar airs Games

IN NEWTV, TODAY'S FROM THE GOLD MEDAL games of men's basketball, football and boxing. At the following evening's live from the Olympic events sports fans on Solar Sports airs the final stretch of the 2008 Beijing Games.

The viewing spectacle begins today with the broadcast of taekwondo competitions in the women's 57 kg and men's 68 kg, respectively, including the possible inclusion of TNT bet Mark Antonio Pinar to the medal of Cuban Santos Laliz in the latter category.

Also featured for the day is the semifinals of the men's and women's BMX cycling and the women's mountain bike finals, scenes of the men's volleyball and a live feed of the athletics events during prime time.

POWER RACE: Phase Sports Inc. and Clark Development Corporation will wage the Tri-Nite Balance Power Race on Nov. 15-16 at the Clark International Freeport Zone. From left are Phase Sports Inc. GM Dindo Dela Peña, Hoe Balance Brand manager Ilog Buenaventura, CDC president Libran-o Lana, Phase Sports Inc. president Renan Gonzales, and CDC manager for Tourism and Cultural Affairs Noemi Gertis.

Davadilla tops Nat'l Criterium

WARREN DAVADILLA HAS A BRILLIANT tactical race in riding the Mayor Jesse Robredo Cup, mark leg of Tuesday National Criterium Grand Prix, on a rainy Sunday at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Riding his time-while the others jockeyed for position, the pint-sized Bicolano Kiwi ng Philippine champion supermet past the lead pack to the last 200 meters to top the Elite Open Division of the event presented by Hinobi and supported by the Quezon City government.

Rodolfo Malangis, the defending National Criterium champion, of Davao Aces Supply placed second while comrade Nelson Tolli-Jr. took third to complete a one-two finished by Energy Bar Liaisons, Fuji Xerox Petzers and Body Project.

Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte flagged off the riders in the cycling discourse to kick off his "Bikers ng Bayan Pilipinas Tour," which promises his campaign for an economical and environment-friendly mode of transportation in the face of spiraling fuel prices.

Nine-four-emerged victorious in the other races, with Petron's Roderick Calle topping the Executive and Master Division riders while another Team runners, Enrique Enriquez, rode to the Veteran Master, made his debut.

Fitness Firm's Erick Gamarching, Marlboro Phils. marketing manager bagged second spot while another Petron rider, Lucian Galindo, was third on top of taking the sprint title.

JCTeam's Rommel Dadanio captured the Executive Category B title while Mike Reyson clinched the Executive Category C crown.

Project events director Bo Rodriguez said the series' seventh leg will be held on Sept. 21 in Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya.

Reyes survives; Pagulayan tumbles

DAVAO CITY—POOL MAESTRO EFREN "Bata" Reyes rallied from two racks down to escape with a 9-8 victory over unheralded Richard Portadera in the semi-of the First Senator-President Manny Villar Cup Davao Leg yesterday at the Ateneo of Gaisano Mall.

The 54-year-old Reyes had a shaky start, committing a couple of miscues that allowed Portadera to enter a 6-4 lead.

Reyes, however, came up with a couple of magical shots in the set count at 6-4 and reach the ball first account to victory.

"Sometimes you need to be lucky to win," said Reyes. "That guy (Portadera) is really good and he's really on his way to hosting me. I just got lucky."

Up next for Reyes is national cohn Lee Van Corteza, who beat Jundel Mateo, 9-2.

Former double world champion Ronnie Alcano likewise advanced to the Last 16 after trouncing Wilfredo Wilson, 9-3. He will face Villar Cup-Alabang leg titlist Warren Kiamco, who beat Rodel Gonzales, 9-4, in the fourth stop of the island-hopping pool series presented by Villando Tolong on Pagadian ng Philippine Sports in cooperation with the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

Ciareen ranked No. 1 Dennis Orcollo is also through to the next stage as he renamed Davao qualifier Bonnie Alcaraz, 9-1, in the three-day tournament sponsored by Camella Communities.

Former world titlist Alex Pagulayan, winner of the recent Singapore leg of the Goldenseas Tour, got the upset as, yielding to Jhanmar Pena, 9-8.

Other first round matches saw defending Grande champ Biggy Pamentero subdue Johann Chua, 9-4, and Rubilen Hapin eliminate Mary Ann Basia, 9-4.

SPEAKER President Manny Villar makes a trick shot during the opening of the Villar Cup Davao Leg. All four balls went in to the delight of the crowd, which included former world champions Efren "Bata" Reyes and Ronnie Alcano, who had not the shot.

NCAA CAGING

Lions seek payback vs Bombers

THEIR POSITIONS REVERSED SINCE THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER, powerful Jose Rizal goes up against defending champion San Beda today in a duel that could determine which team locks up one of the two twice-to-beat Final Four incentives in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Game time is set at 4 p.m. at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City, with the Heavy Bombers hoping to prove their shock 79-74 victory over the Red Lions in the first round was no fluke.

The Lions were unbeaten when they hosted the Bombers, who opened the finals behind the ace of Sanggalang and Ola, but they are still the underdogs today.

"I think they were only caught by the law of averages in our last game on Tuesday, meeting another tough fight against Jose Rizal," said Vergara, whose dead-ball finesse has made Lito his prized possession in the San Beda-JRU rivalry.

The two coaches did not shake hands after their second game.

The Lions warmed up for today's game by thumping Jru Perpetual Help Altas, 73-55, Monday, prompting Lim to say that San Beda has gotten its rhythm back.

"We executed very well [on] both ends today," said Lim. "We're trying very hard to manage the situation. I guess Jose Rizal day-in, we'll be back."

The Bombers, for their part, beat Letran, 74-72, Friday with big man Jonas Sena leading the way with 19 points.

Philippine Christian U and Perpetual, two teams out of the running in the race for Final Four berths, collide in the first game at 2 p.m. — Gaile V.P. Tapao

ATENEO'S Rommy Bachao and JRU's Paul Lee battle for the rebound yesterday. Story on A20 — ALEX MACUHA

PSC charts radical acts versus NSAs

By Mari Anthony Reyes

SINCE IT'S THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION which is on the losing end of the Olympic blame game, the sports agency's chief yesterday said it will come out with "radical actions" to implement its oversight powers over its partners.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez said he would ask the national sports associations to change their system and evaluate records for the past 10 years immediately after the Beijing Olympics end Sunday.

"NSAs which are not willing to follow, recording to Ramirez, won't get funds.

He cited that there are NSAs which have offices, coaches and athletes "who have not fulfilled their purpose."

"We take all the blame because we have all the money, but then being the disbursing agency we have oversight powers over them," said Ramirez in videoconference from Beijing where he's been stationed as Mary Anthony Reyes reports the ending PH campaign in the Games.

The move is true with the Philippine Olympic Committee, which Ramirez said is not cooperative with the PSC.

"We can't intervene, they are private but we can do something being the government agency which funds them," added Ramirez.

Priority sports

But it's his "radical moves" as it is focus on the 6 priority sports which the agency picked last year as possible sources of an Olympic gold medal.

Among the sports are boxing, taekwondo, wushu, shooting, archery, weightlifting, athletics and swimming. The PSC chief said boxing and Taekwondo stars will be added to the list.

The Southeast Asian Games, he said, would be given the least priority since it did not serve as true test of the country's sporting excellence. He noted that after winning the overall championship in 2005, the country fell to sixth place two years later in Thailand.

"We produced two gold medalists there when we can't even win a single medal in the Olympics," said Ramirez.

The country reportedly spent P430 million during the 2005 SEAG which could have very well be apportioned to the select athletes' training for the Olympics. The PSC earmarked P90 million for the training of the 15 national athletes who competed in Beijing.

RP draws Armenia, yields to India

Sixth round Monday

12 p.m.—Russia (8)—Pilda (6/6) vs. Georgia (England, Armenia (6)—Arakhamia, Brooke (4.5)—Turkey (6.5)—Turkey (Mexico (5)—Indonesia (4.5)—Cuba (5) vs. Greece, Iran (6)—Turkey (4.5)—Turkey (5)—South Africa (4.5)—Netherlands (4.5)—Turkey (4

MEXICO, TURKEY— THE Philippines held its ground against tough opposition and kept its hopes alive in the Chess Olympiad at the Shenzhen Great Municipality Sports Hotel Thursday.

Powered by Grandmaster Wesley So, the Philippines drew with seventh seed Armenia, 2-2, in the fifth round and subsequently defeated defending champion India, 3.5-2.5, in the sixth to share second to third places with its teammates in the 10-round tournament.

The Filipinos bounced their drive by dumping Turkey-A, 3.5-0.5, on Wednesday.

So settled for a draw against Hrant Melkumyan after 41 moves in the Armenia game.

Fide Master Samuel Tevfik Jakobsen of Armenia had crushed International Master R. Sidhartha of India in minute on the Filipinos' leading scorer with 5.5 points out of a possible six.

But Sid's teammates magnified against strong opposition.

National Master Harsha Bharathakoti drew with Mac Bagh, daughter of Armenia but forced to IM Debashis Das of India in the next round.

But Emmanuel Udasco provided the Filipinos' lone victory over Armenia when he trounced IM Aleksandr Timofeev in the fifth round. The losses dropped also split the point with FM Sevan Muradyan.

The biggest casualty for the four-time NP team was third board player Akros John Dela, who lost to IM Rob Hovhannisian of Armenia and IM Surya Shahyan of India.

Overall, the Philippines is even tied with India with 18 points with four rounds left in the event which listed 20 teams from 10 countries.

The Filipinos and the Indians hold the top-seeded Positions by 1.5 points.

The Russians dumped No. 8 seed Slovakia 3.5-1 to rise 80% round and blanked Armenia 4-0 in the sixth round to remain their lead by 17.5 points.

England humbled Netherlands 3.5-0.5, and blanked Turkey-C 4-0, while No. 6 Georgia drew with Azerbaijan, 2-2, and walloped Switzerland 4-0, 3.5-0.5 to rise to 5.5 points.

Southwoods virtual titlist

BINEGA, MEDOR OCCIDENTAL— REJOICE De Guzman started with 56 points overnight to blanks Southwoods virtually clinched the blanks championship of the 14th Lakeside golf tournament with one round left at the Baccolod Golf and Country Club Here.

De Guzman, who drew a model score of four-under-par 68, boosted Southwoods' lead over defending champion Del Monte to an unassailable 30 points after two rounds of the annual event organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP).

Lois Roberto (52, Clear Cagli 51, Est Cruz, tied -45 and Imelda Alcorn (-41 rounded out their standings for Southwoods in the eight-to-play, five-to-count format.

Thus far, Southwoods has a 405 total (249-246) against Del Monte's 405 (222-203).

In the Lady Aviators, Tagaytay Highlands jumped into the lead with 179 points and a 360 total thanks to the 40 points of Vivien Bautista-Lee.

The Tagaytay ladies moved ahead by eight points over erstwhile joint leader and host Bacolod Golf, which managed a 171 for 357.

Aside from Bautista-Lee, Ruth Imperial and Day Domingo each carded a 86, Twelle Dimson contributed 31 and Marina Vergara added 15.

SPORTSWATCH

Senior Care tilt at Riviera

THE FEDERATION OF PHILIPPINE GOLF Clubs Inc. will stage the 2008 Senior Golf Championship four weekend on Thursday, Sept. 4, at the Complex course at Riviera.

Tournament fee is P2,000 per player with the deadline for registration set on Monday, Aug. 25.

Seniors to be classified in the team and individual awards as follows: 50-59 (M) and Seniors (55 and above).

For inquiries, call 840-3801.

Pasay 3-cocker today

TEAMS DOUBLING IN THE ENGINE TODAY at Pasay City Coliseum race a special 3-cock derby with 48 fights lined up.

Rizals Hay Cabal of Makati and Lito Buffer group engaged the only feature P6,000 attractive championship all roosters guaranteed prize of P45,000.

Next Friday, Friday Cockpit announces the 2008 derby fighting season by staging the annual Showdown Friday derby, one on its 22nd year Promoter Danny Tiu expects a guaranteed prize of P400,000.

Big-time cockers are getting for the Letran Sportsmen's derby derby" of pit managers Felix Alfredo Reyes Jr. and Ely.

For details, call 840-4300, 840-1546 and 88-65-70 Ext.

Race 1—(6)—Grand Offer (2) Red Thunder (8) Mighty Bolo.

Race 2—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 3—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 4—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 5—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 6—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 7—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 8—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 9—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 10—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 11—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

Race 12—(red Sox (1) Ace Hunter (2) Gladiator Power (3) Ace Hunter (4) Golden Pacific (5).

BY TOP CHOICE AT 11:15

Wack Wack President's Cup today

OVER 400 MEMBERS, SPONSORS and guests are teeing off today for the 4th President's Cup tournament at the East and West courses of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

A Stableford event is expected following auction preparations by the sports and games committee headed by Tommy Tan for the event honoring club president Luis R. Tan.

The annual tournament, with more than P1 million worth of prizes at stake, also coincides with the birthday of Tan, who said more slots were opened due to the distance of some fees.

TAN

The club has scheduled two shotgun starts (7 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.) for members and sponsored tee-time from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for sponsors and guests at the East course.

Aside from the eight flight-to-one prizes provided by Coh Motors, Mitsubishi Motors and Union Motor Corp., Asahi Group, Yoson Enterprises, Gali Cos. East Plaza, and The Turf Dumpers, SPIC-ORM, and BMT Bird Trailers, eight grand raffle prizes, 40 major prizes, and 100 minor prizes will be given away to tonight's awards ceremony.

Major backers of the event are Philippine Airlines, TDH Corporation and Paragon Trading and Investors Corporation, NOPA Electronics Phils., Sta. Elena Properties Inc.

Other supporters include Arsenio Selche, Asia United Bank, Citi Private Bank, Eva Antonyn, Filgear Outdoors, NMR Asia Resources, PBM Pualian Private Bank, Orion Bank Makati, Clear Blue Investors Corp., Filgate 88 Corporate Center, First Sandra Group, JGA Security Services, Liberyserv Marketing, Pepsi-Cola, Stella Works, Schering Plough and Splash Corp.

Paya Interscholastic Golf Championship up

THE PHILIPPINE ATHLETIC Youth Association Office will hold its Interscholastic Golf Championship on Sept. 21 and 28 and Oct. 10 in consecutive weekends.

A team may be composed of a minimum of three golfers, with the first three scores per team to count.

There will be two divisions, midget (grade school) and junior (high school). The venues are the Villanueva Golf Club, Canlubang, Agoncillo Golf Club and the North Greens and the Casa Monte Golf & Country Club.

Individual titles are also at stake.

The Paya schools expected to join are La Salle Green Hills, Ateneo de Manila, Xavier School, Colegio San Agustin and Southridge. Among those invited to join are De La Salle-Zobel, San Beda, La Salle Antipolo, International School, Brent, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College.

For inquiries, call Peedee Arevalo at 09189054818 or drop by the office hours at 721-1791 and 7261218. Registration ends on Sept. 15.

TAAL VIEW ZIPLINE. Tagaytay Mayor Abraham "Bambol" H. Tolentino takes the first flip through the air on a zipline in the newly opened Taal View Zipline and Cable Car on Sunday. The line-up: Tolentino rides solo while passengers cable car offer a galloping adventure with an 820-meter stretch (one way) along the ridges of Tagaytay in Point Grove.

Women power pumps up American bid

KERR: Walsh will give way to sweetheart after the Beijing Olympics. AP

BEIJING — WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL HAS been something of a one-horse race for the last few years.

Kerry May Treanor and Misty Walsh have won every major tournament since the sand championships in 2003 and on Thursday won their second Olympic crown against China.

"They're too strong," said Tian Jie after losing to the Americans. "We did all we could but they're just too good."

It's a feeling many competitors have experienced.

Before the Beijing Games began, Australian player Tamsin Barnes quipped that the other teams need to set international resources to work out a way to beat them.

May-Treanor, 31, was down-to-earth about their success.

"I think it's basically cooperation, communication. Knowing that we want the same thing and turning to each other when it's tough and saying, we can do this," she said after winning the latest gold medal in her collection.

Walsh, who hooked up in May-Treanor on her 'dirt' when she was a young amateur volleyball rookie, said they were both strong all-around players and, more than anything, great friends.

"We're unique and different. We have something special between us so we try to enhance those things whether it's our chemistry on the court, our skill," the bubbly 30-year-old said.

"We still need to keep improving on our weaknesses, though. We're never satisfied. Not even after eight years together."

Last Olympic stint?

The only toy of hope for the rest of the field is that both players seem to take some time off to have children and will not have their guns before deciding whether to come back on tour.

In the meantime, the all-conquering Americans are a lot of younger talent coming up behind them, particularly the new Chinese teams who shared the Beijing podium with them.

"A lot of players are taking up very short on very tall," said Misty-Treanor, who hopes to spend some time coaching after the Olympics.

Nonetheless, she did not bury their chances to London if she and Walsh decide to come back after having children.

"I think it's going to be pretty hard," she said, smiling. "I think that if and when third and I come back we can do it again."

CUBA'S Yamilka Ruis leaves the court in defeat. AP

Volleyball team in semifinals

Meanwhile, the U.S. women's volleyball team advanced to the gold medal game, defeating Cuba in three sets on Thursday to guarantee the Americans their first Olympic finish since 1984.

The United States will play the winner of the Brazil-China semifinal for the Olympic title on Saturday. Cuba, three-time Olympic gold medal winners, will play the loser of that semifinal for the bronze.

Kim Willoughby helped the U.S. team get there, with spikes that capped each set for the Americans.

"I just kept thinking, 'You can't tip the ball, you've got to hit the ball,'" she said, adding with understatement, "It worked."

After that match, she smiled and stared to the crowd with tears streaming down her face.

The U.S. improved to 6-1 in Beijing with the 25-20, 25-16, 25-17 victory. The team's lone finish in the Olympics could now win a silver medal in 1998 in Los Angeles.

Table tennis first

Wang Chen of the United States defeated Ryu Seung-min of South Korea on Thursday to become the first American in Olympic table tennis history to reach the quarterfinals.

The 31-year-Chinese also advanced and keys after the possibility of a medal sweep for the host team.

After her 4-3 win over Ryu, the world's top doubles player Wang collapsed in her knees over to the table and cried into her towel.

"I thought it was possible to beat her so long as I was full of confidence," Wang said. She won 11-9, 9-11, 11-9, 10-12, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5.

Wang, who's ranked No. 22 in the world, will go on to face sixth-ranked Li Jia Wei of Singapore on Thursday night. AP, Reuters

Russians fastest in athletics so far

BEIJING — OLGA KARMEINA MOLDO Russia took into sole lead of the track gold medal standings Thursday in a driving rain that hampered even the best of Olympic athletes.

After a week of close and sweet competitions, a downpour over the Olympic Green cooled things down for the 20 kilometer walk and Karmeina responded with an Olympic record.

It gave Russia its fifth gold medal of the track and field program, despite several pre-games anti-doping scandals which left several top contenders at home.

Russia has nine medals overall, edging back in front of Jamaica, which has seven medals, including four golds — Usain Bolt's 100- and 200-meter sprint double, the women's 100 and 400 meter hurdles.

The United States was in third place with only three gold but 14 medals overall, and will be counting on more cases in Thursday's programs.

Rain dominated the morning.

Karmeina dealt with it best, leading from start to finish for the first gold of the day in 1 hour, 26 minutes, 31 seconds.

"It was better than a sauna and hot dog," she said of the ideal walking temperature of 21 degrees C (70 degrees F). "I didn't feel it was very slippery."

The javelin throwers did, often losing their footing and, for some, signalling an end the games.

Even world champion Tero Pitkamaki was in trouble, hurting his right leg when his left ankle slipped from under him.

Throwing was stopped again briefly when Jaroyet Makarov of Russia slipped and fell heavily.

The rain weather also delayed the women's high jump qualifying for an hour. Technical delegates decided the 13 women who cleared 1.93 meters would all advance to the final. Defending champion Yelena Slesarenko was one more away from elimination before scaling through. AP

KARMEINA responds with Olympic record. REUTERS

'Banned' track shoes to disprove allegations

BEIJING — TWO ATHLETES IN 2020 today's marathon will have an extra spring in their step — quite literally.

Adidas's Jesse Williams and Brooks's Franklin Tenorio have both opted to race in the controversial Spira Sleeper shoe that has two stainless steel springs bedded in its sole.

U.S. track and field authorities have banned the distinctive yellow footwear, saying it gives athletes an unfair advantage, while the international athletics federation has yet to rule on the issue, opening the way for the Spira's debut at an Olympics.

The shoe's creator says other customers could still present shoes to use and criticized the continuing confusion.

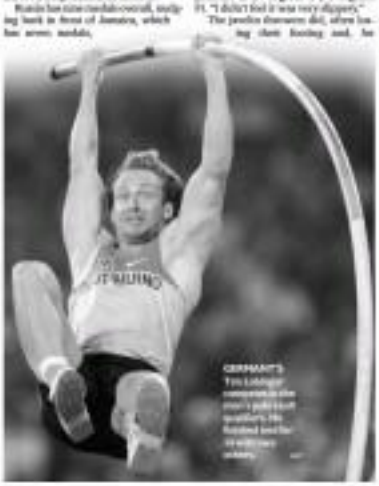
"My shoe certainly provides economy of use and energy return that Spira cannot and no one is saying Michael Phelps should be banned," Andy Rodman, CEO of Spira Footwear, told Reuters in a telephone interview from his home base in El Paso, Texas.

Phelps and countless other swimmers broke a slew of world records in Beijing underscoring in the space-age Speedo gear's.

Wearing the right shoes is vital in a marathon.

They have to be tough enough to get the runner round the 26.22-mile (42.195-km) course, gentle enough to protect the foot's pressed feet and light enough to keep it cool on the way.

Other racers are also opting for unusual footwear, including the limited U.S. athlete Ryan Hall, who will be using innovative Asics shoes which have rear blades inclined into the sole to absorb more and improve traction. Reuters



Shamed Brazil prexy wants Dunga ousted

RIO DE JANEIRO — BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT vowed his anger over a humiliating Olympic soccer defeat to arch-rivals Argentina and unequivocally called for coach Dunga's dismissal on Wednesday.

The influential Globo newspaper simply filled its front Olympic page with a tombstone and a stark obituary in a plea for an end to Dunga's two-year tenure, in which Tuesday's 3-0 loss was the latest in a series of lifeless performances.

"Brazilian football, five-time world champions, inferior of the dutch of Dunga's team yesterday in Beijing, China," Globo said.

It said the funeral Mass would be on Friday, referring to Brazil's home-match next encounter against Belgium.

"Dunga's humiliation," President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, according to local media, told lawmakers at a meeting on Tuesday that the team were "embarrassing" and that he had "never been so angry", not even when his favorite Corinthians club team were in their prime.

Despite such unlucky measures in the semifinal, newspapers put the blame squarely on underperforming stars like Ronaldinho and on a defensive style that Dunga has imposed on a nation known for its free-hailing flamboyance.

"Dunga could pay dearly for his conception of progressive football, defensive, without brilliance," said the Estado De Sao Paulo.

Globo said Dunga, a former World Cup captain, had betrayed the Brazilian and Olympic spirit with his negative approach in the tournament for under-23s only three years after the country's last triumph.

It said the world were justifiably bewildered at seeing a Brazilian side play without flair. Reuters

USAIN BOLT celebrates his second gold medal. AFP

IOC head: Usain great but still immature

BEIJING—IOC PRESIDENT JACQUES Rogge criticized Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt on Thursday for showing a lack of respect to other competitors after his record-breaking gold medal performances in the 100 and 200 meters.

"That's not the way we perceive being a champion," Rogge said.

The International Olympic Committee chief hailed Bolt's stunning achievements in the two sprints, comparing him to American great Jesse Owens, but said Bolt should have cut the look-at-me flaunting and acknowledged the other athletes.

"I have no problem with him doing a show," Rogge said in an interview with three international news agency reporters. "I think he should show more respect for his competitors and shake hands, give a tap on the shoulder to the other runs immediately after the finish and not make gestures like the one he made in the 100 meters."

Having built a huge lead in Saturday's 100 final, Bolt slowed, glanced around with arms outstretched and pounded his chest before crossing the finish line in a world record time of 9.69 seconds.

"I understand the joy," Rogge said. "He might have interpreted that in another way, but the way it was perceived was 'look me if you can.' You don't do that. But he'll learn. He's still a young man."

Bolt, who earned 50 on Thursday, claimed in another one-sided victory Wednesday night in the 200, breaking Michael Johnson's 12-year-old record of 19.32 seconds and lowering the mark to 19.30.

Bolt made little effort to congratulate the other runners as he wrapped himself in a Jamaican flag and set off on a solo victory lap. Swaying to the reggae music on the stadium loudspeakers, he walked backward around the track, pausing his face rather than a TV camera, raising an index finger and yelling, "I am No. 1! I am No. 1!"

"We still has to mature," Rogge said. "I would love him to show more respect for his competitors. That's not the way we perceive being a champion. But he still learn in time. He should shake hands with his competitors and not ignore them. He'll learn that sooner or later. He's a great athlete, of course."

Bolt became the first man since Carl Lewis in 1984 to win the 100 and 200 gold at a single Olympics, and the only man ever to do it by breaking world records in both. AP

It's payback time as USA cagers meet Argentines

BEIJING—TEAM USA HAS ITS EYES on a semifinal match up against reigning Olympic champion Argentina on Friday, a formidable hurdle in its quest to bring basketball gold back to the nation that invented the game.

The US team of high profile superstars led by Bobe Bryant, LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony will be looking to revenge an Athens 2004 semifinal loss to Argentina, led by Manu Ginobili and a group of fellow NBA players.

"We want to play the best. We want to play the defending champions," Bryant said after the US reached the final four by knocking off Australia, 116-85, late Wednesday.

"Anyone who has aspirations to be a champion, you understand there is a sense of pride that comes along with beating a champion."

ESPN players never hesitating with confidence that they could beat the South Americans.

LEBRON James: We should play as a team. AFP

and recognize the gold, but LeBron and Bryant said dismal performances at the 2002 and 2006 world championships were clearly on their minds.

"We all want revenge on that (Athens) game," said power forward Carlos Boozer.

Despite winning all six of their Olympic basketball games by an average of almost 32 points, the Americans were careful not to get too overconfident as has been the case in their recent international hoops.

"If we don't approach every game like it's our last, we can be beat," Cleveland Cavalier and current NBA scoring champion LeBron James said.

"If we don't come into it and affirmatively make the extra pass or defensively and don't help each, we can lose."

In a game, which ranged past three, point power Boozer, 30-70, Wednesday in the most thrilling match of the Olympic tournament so far, said it would take a lot for Argentina to be surprised that the US was still at the top of the heap.

"They are the best team in the tournament," San Antonio Spur Tabolvio Oberto said.

The United States has won a record 12 Olympic basketball titles and current holders a USD team and Dear Iona all-time Games record.

In the second semifinal, reigning world champion Spain will meet Slovenia at Wukesong Gymnasium. AFP

House, cash for first-ever Afghan Olympic medalist

NORALLIANT Rahimi (left) fights with Ukraine's Anton Kuzyutin during their match in the men's 58-kg taekwondo match. AP

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—NOOR Ahmad Sayeedi said a silent prayer while watching the small family TV with his 13-year-old son, Hedayatullah, in the living room of their home in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Then he watched his country win its first ever Olympic medal.

Hedayatullah Hilimi defeated world champion Juan Antonio Suarez of Spain on Wednesday to earn the bronze medal in the men's under 58-kilogram taekwondo competition, sparking applause, wide smiles and laughter as hundreds gathered and ran toward parties around the country.

"When I saw that he won, I jumped up and hugged and kissed my son," Sayeedi said, "I was crying."

President Hamid Karzai immediately called to congratulate Hilimi. He also awarded him a house at the government's expense, and Hermann Hamidzada, the president's spokesman.

"I hope this will send a message of peace to my country after 30 years of war," Hilimi said.

The victory led all of Afghanistan's evening newscasts.

"I am so happy. I cannot express my feelings in words," said Mohammad Akbar, 33, who watched on a TV at his Kabul pharmacy. "While I was watching the match I was clapping. I was so happy."

Hilimi, 21, started learning the Korean martial art when he was 10 because his brother had joined a club in Kabul to train. Not only was it an escape from the daily rigors of life in a country that has been at peace since the 1970s, he narrowed to be good at it.

Exceptionally good.

When Sayeedi's son Hilimi, they were both living at a refugee camp in Iran during the years of war that embroiled Afghanistan in the 1980s and 1990s. The two competed together on a refugee taekwondo team.

Hilimi came to Kabul four years ago, Sayeedi said. In the mornings he lifted weights and in the evenings he practiced martial arts. In between he earned money cutting hair as a barber.

With modest sums better training conditions. After being selected for the national team six months ago, he was able to use a special gymnasium.

But to a country where sports take a distant place behind the realities of war, few resources are dedicated to training athletes.

"My training situation is a lot like the situation in my country," Hilimi said. "It's very difficult."

Only four Afghan athletes came to Beijing, representing a country that had never seen an Olympic medal and is ranking even deeper into war as the Taliban insurgency resurgence.

Sports Minister Abdul Waqif Sediqi—who in 2004 broke the gender barrier as the Afghan Olympic team—was last in a field of 81 women in the 100 meters, with a time of 14.08. She ran with a scarf covering her head.

Tournament Mastered Ariel Rouhol 50th in the men's 100. He trains in Kabul's National Stadium, where the Taliban once staged regular public executions, setting jogging there has come his spikes won't dig into the track's cracked, concrete surface.

Afghanistan will get another chance at a medal in taekwondo. Nesar Ahmad Bahave is competing in a heavier weight class.

Hamidullah Bayat, chair of the Afghan Wireless Communication Company, earlier announced that he would award any Afghan athlete who won an Olympic bronze $10,000, along with $50,000 for a gold medal and $25,000 for a silver, said Shahid Anahita, a spokesman for MVIC. AP

Leukemia fails to stall Dutch's golden swim

HENGSHUI TOWN, CHINA—DUTCH swimmer Maarten van der Weijden shaved just inside the final and broke the gruh gold in the men's 10-kilometer open water race Thursday, completing a comeback after recovering from leukemia.

Van der Weijden was a three-way sprint to the inaugural event with a better-angled finish under a steady rain.

"I think the leukemia taught me to think, step by step," van der Weijden said. "When you're lying in the hospital bed and feeling so much pain and suffering or tired, you don't want to think about next week or next month, you're only thinking about the next hour.

"You just have to be patient. You lay in your bed and just wait. It's a long, passive strategy I've used here, to stay in the pack, to be patient, and stay cool just waiting for your chance."

David Davies of Britain and Thomas Lurz of Germany drifted to the outside at the finish and settled for silver and bronze.

Van der Weijden reached up to stop the yellow mushroom in 2 hours, 51 minutes, 51.8 seconds. Davies was 1.5 seconds behind and Lurz finished 2.6 seconds back.

"I have to anyone in the field that can beat me, that guy is an absolute legend," Lurz said of van der Weijden. "When you're lying in the hospital bed and feeling so much pain and suffering or tired, you don't want to think about next week or next month, you're only thinking about the next hour.

"You just have to be patient. You lay in your bed and just wait. It's a long, passive strategy I've used here, to stay in the pack, to be patient, and stay cool just waiting for your chance."

Van der Weijden was diagnosed with leukemia in 2005. He came back in Beijing and is the only swimmer left who competed in the 2004 Athens Games.

"Because of the treatment I got, the stem cell transplants, I had the luck to recover," van der Weijden said. "The stem cell transplants are because of research worldwide to cancer. So everyone who donates stem cells or bone marrow is saving a life."

MARTEN van der Weijden swims during the men's 10-km swimming marathon. AP

Wild judging foils...

From page A19

"He won in control, but the judges surprised him by giving the Australian a psychological edge with the (Split's) first point," said Santoso. "The judges didn't see that thing before."

Indeed, Go let loose a frenzied weapon with 30 seconds left in the match that would have turned around the tide of battle.

With Cornell up, 3-0, he surged forward and unleashed a bewildering spin kick on Cornell's chest. The kick failed to impress two of the four judges, though.

An un-kick scored by at least three judges would have meant an instant 2 points.

Go was so disheartened by the verdict that he cried in the fighters' room, according to BF delegation medical officer Dr. Alex Pinzon, and refused to be interviewed by Filipino reporters.

At later game there—he dig by leaving on the side exit of the University of Science and Technology Beijing Gym.

Arcangado said that by avoiding the top favorites on his side of the draw, Go would have been a clear candidate for a medal.

"Ang gamit na sana ng rule ni (The path was won by) Taboulos," the taekwondo chief said. "But it wasn't meant to be. He have to accept the verdict."

Phelps told: You won't make it

BEIJING—WHEN MICHAEL PHELPS was a kid, his primary school teacher told his mother he would never amount to anything because he was unable to focus.

When Phelps won the first of his 14 Olympic gold medals, in Athens in 2004, he remembered those words as he stood on the podium and listened to the "Stars and Stripes."

Despite being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) at the age of 9, Phelps went to prove that restless spectacularly wrong.

"He was a very energetic little guy, always all over the place, 'Why are we doing this? When are we doing that? What are we doing next?'" his mother Debbie told Reuters in an interview.

"Naughty isn't a word that I would use, he was playful, inventive," she added. "Definitely athletic characterized a lot of that energy."

In his autobiography he talks of being in "pure zen, running around, sneaking up behind people, stealing their snacks and goggles, tapping them on the shoulder and running away and just causing general havoc".

She says her son's extraordinary focus on swimming is restricted to many hyperactive children, especially as at first he was more than a few minutes at school but capable of diverting themselves entirely to something they love doing.

He took medication to address the symptoms of ADHD, as do around 1 in 25 children in the United States, but only on schooldays and not at weekends or holidays. Reuters

Beijing 2008 SPORTS

Diver Fabriga winds up RP Olympic stint

RYAN Rexel Fabriga does a dive.

By Ted S. Malonzo

BEIJING—RYAN REXEL FABRIGA CLOSES OUT THE NATIONAL team's forgettable campaign at the Beijing Olympics later Friday when he competes in the 10-meter platform qualification stage at the Water Cube aquatics center.

The 5-foot-5, 130-lb Fabriga is not among the names expected to secure a berth in the semifinals based on pre-event seedings in Beijing's final competition, which starts at 7 p.m.

Hou Liang and his equally brilliant compatriot Zhou Luan, the second-ranked entry who won gold in two of four legs of the 2008 World Series in Stuttgart and Tijuana, Mexico.

Fabriga climbed his perch in the Olympics by finishing fourth in the third phase of qualifying of the 2008 Fina Diving World Cup, won by Germany's Sascha Klein, in the Chinese capital.

"Hyalim kung maka-qualify ako. (I will do my best to qualify to the) next round," said the 22-year-old from Zamboanga City. "Nothing to lose also kasi pag-habambuhay ko ito sya. I have to give it my best."

Fabriga scored two gold medals at the 2003 Hermann Southeast Asian Games, earning him the distinction as the region's Super Diver, and another at the 2007 Thailand Games. He sustained an elbow injury in the 2005 Manila edition and failed to make an impression.

Fabriga's dive follows that of teammate Shiela Mae Bonoc who failed to make it past the qualification stage of the women's 3-meter springboard event on Aug. 14, winding up 22nd in a field of 30.

He fell five songs short of the last semifinalist bid by eventual gold medalist Guo Jingjing of China.

Malaysia's Bryan Nickson Lomas, the most successful Filipino at the region's Super Dives

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■ **Inflation seen** at 13-14% in Q3 /B5

BUSINESS

Editor Raul C. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Nartatez

Excellence in Connection
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KUWAIT AIR

Foreign donors buck gov't rice subsidies

Push cash transfers to directly fight poverty, inequality

CURRENCIES
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱46.465 = $1
as of 5 p.m., August 21, 2008

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE FOREIGN DONOR community has backed the government's efforts to expand its direct cash subsidies for the poor while phasing out "less-efficient programs" such as rice subsidies.

In a special Philippine Development Forum organized to help the country handle an environment of high fuel and food prices, multilateral and bilateral donors led by the World Bank also debated on the merits of subsidies for agricultural inputs such as fertilizer and seeds. They noted that these could best be used as a transition measure to cushion the impact of policy reforms on poor farmers.

"Developers argued that with the implementation of a modern social protection system, the need for rice price stabilization and rice distribution will diminish over time," the World Bank said in a statement on behalf of the donor community.

Development partners also offered assistance to implement critical reforms, including the streamlining

FOREIGN B2

Expect more free time. Here's how.

Time for yourself and for your family has never been more precious. While nothing can be perfectly planned to the last minute, it's still possible to set aside time for both.

Read on for tips on how to prioritize, maintain a work-life balance and discover priceless free time today or the corners of every day.

SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS.
Keeping a schedule is an effective tool to battle procrastination or the infamous mañana habit. A well-planned day prevents us from running out of time and keeps us ahead of the daily race for success.

PRIORITIZE YOUR DAY.
A to-do list scribbled in your notebook or on a sticky note can be good enough to remind you of what you have to accomplish for the day. Don't forget to indicate which activities are truly priorities then start with those.

PLAN FOR THE MONTH.
For the busybods, with meetings, appointments and regrets scattered all throughout the month, keep a detailed planner. Use the calendar program on your mobile phone so you can refer to your schedule wherever you are. A good bonus: people you work with will appreciate how you value and respect their time by being prompt with submissions or meetings.

STRIKE A WORK-LIFE BALANCE.
Don't forget to include non-work related activities in your schedule. You can keep separate schedules for work, friends and family but make sure they don't overlap, otherwise you may have to choose between Mom's birthday party and an important client's dinner invitation.

IDENTIFY YOUR TIME WASTERS.
What eats up most of your time? Do you spend your lunch hour lining up in the bank or in the Bayad Center? Or maybe you are spreading yourself too thin.

multi-tasking to the extreme and saying yes to everyone's requests. Are these things essential to your daily, weekly or monthly goals or do they merely keep you from doing what's most important?

RE-THINK YOUR ROUTINE.
We've been so used to doing things in a particular, usually old-fashioned way even when there's a simpler and faster way to do them. It may take you some time to learn and get used to a new routine but you'll soon realize how these changes earn you extra time for yourself.

DISCOVER ALTERNATIVES.
Take advantage of new paths that help you reach your goals with less effort. Instead of lining up for a bank transaction, ask your bank if they offer online, phone or mobile banking. Instead of doing everything yourself, learn to delegate your tasks and learn to say no to requests especially when your schedule is already filled up with urgent concerns.

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BPI 24/7 BANKING

Meralco gets ERC nod to issue more bonds

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMmission has given the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. the go-ahead to issue more bonds or undertake other financing methods to bankroll the company's capital expenditure projects.

In a recently issued decision, the ERC said Meralco could take out more borrowings, on the condition that it would not be in excess of 50 percent of the company's debt-to-equity ratio.

Meralco had earlier sought the regulator's approval to borrow not more than P22.7 billion up to 2011.

The distribution utility said that under performance-based regulation (PBR), a rate-setting scheme that replaced the decades-old re-

Funding for capex program

turn on rate base (ROR) regime, it was mandated to complete proposed capital expenditure projects amounting to P20.68 billion.

These projects would allow Meralco to meet the projected electricity demand from now up to 2013, comply with performance standards and maintain the reliability of the distribution system.

"Given the peso amounts required to complete the capital expenditures approved for the second regulatory period, it is not possible or practical to finance all of these solely through (Meralco's) internally generated funds or collections. In this regard, applicant intends to finance a portion of the cost through long-term debt," Meralco said in its petition.

Meralco said it is committed to raise any long-term debts using a number of financing options.

These planned borrowings were not expected to have any impact on Meralco's rates, it said, as under the PBR, the distribution utility would have to absorb all interest, fees and other costs related to any long-term borrowing.

These charges included foreign exchange losses on foreign debts, Meralco said.

Meralco mentioned in its application that it already had a long-term standby facility with Calyon Corporate and Investment Bank worth up to $50 million, or its equivalent in any other currency.

eTelecare tempers profit target

By Nica T. Dichoso

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) firm eTelecare Global Solutions Inc. has tempered its full-year income target.

The blended contact company said it expected net income to be in the range of $9 million to $11 million. The previous projection for 2008 was $16 million to $19 million.

But the BPO company maintained that its 2008 revenues would still hit $300 million.

"With solid demand for our services, we continue to anticipate that 2008 revenue will be in the range of $300 million to $330 million, the midpoint of which would represent growth of 37 percent over 2007 revenue," company president and CEO John Harris said in a report submitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

eTelecare earlier reported that its consolidated profit for the first six months of 2008 reached $2.5 million, down 7% percent from $11.2 million last year.

Revenues was positive, climbing 30 percent to $148.6 million from $123.5 million.

The company generated record revenue of $75.4 million for the second quarter that ended June 30. That was a 35-percent increase from its $61.4 million in the same period last year.

But net income for the second quarter slipped to $645,000 from $6 million. The

ETELECARE TO

iRemit to buy back shares, launch new card

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MONEY TRANSFER COMPANY iRemit Inc. said it will buy back up to 18 million shares from the stock market or 1.78 percent of its outstanding stock.

iRemit corporate secretary Alma Bendaña said the program was aimed to preserve the value of the company's shares, which are "grossly undervalued at present," and to boost investor confidence in the firm.

Bendaña said the program would be implemented until such time that the targeted shares have been bought back or until the corporation deemed that the market price of the shares was no longer undervalued.

Shares bought back under the program will be treated as treasury shares. The company reserves some 53,000 treasury shares.

iRemit closed at P4 a share yesterday.

The company also said yesterday that its remittance volume in the first half rose 57 percent to 8311 million, representing a 6.44-percent market share of total dollar remittance volume.

iRemit is also offering iCredit, a bank-to-bank transaction that allows customers to credit their remittance to any bank of choice; iDeliver, a door-to-door mode with delivery area that covers 17 regions in the country; iPay, a bills payment facility that accepts Pag-IBIG, SSS, Philhealth, real estate and personals installments, and finally a remittance pickup service with about 4,000 designated payout locations nationwide.

The company is planning to launch its own iRemit Shop 'N Pay Visa Card in its foreign offices on Sept. 1. It said that the new cash card was already an EMV (Europard Mastercard Visa) compliant.

The new iRemit Shop 'N Pay Visa Card allows real-time crediting of remittances from abroad, enabling beneficiaries to easily withdraw cash from more than 8,000 Binalori, Megalink and Expressnet ATMs in the Philippines. It can be used for cashless shopping in the visa-affiliated merchants and accepted in online bills payment and for mobile and internet banking transactions.

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Stocks close lower on lingering inflation, oil woes

SHARES CLOSED 0.9 PERCENT lower yesterday amid a lack of developments to perk up trading, dealers said.

The composite index fell 24.74 points to 2,656.92 points. The all-share index fell 0.69 percent to 1,455.15 points.

There were 25 gainers compared to 61 losers with 94 stocks unchanged. Volume amounted to 1.32 billion shares worth P1.38 billion.

"The market is on a consolidation mode because there's no significant development to perk up investor interest," Philstocks Financial Inc. analyst Ariel Dino Jones Sevarenzo.

He added that oil prices and US equities remained volatile and that he expected "lackluster trade to continue" today.

Metrobank Group Chairman Jesus A. Jacinto Jr. said the bank's net income rose 8.3 percent to P3.68 billion in the first half from P3.4 billion a year earlier

HGC backs bill to waive surcharges on loans

By Michelle V. Rivera

JOINT-OWNED HOME HOMEOwnership Corp. has thrown its support behind a bill that will condone unpaid interests and surcharges on delinquent socialized and low-cost housing loans.

HGC said the bill, once signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo into law, would encourage "some loan borrowers to settle their obligations."

Estimates show that there are about 300,000 individuals in the country who have been unable to service their socialized or low-cost housing loans, said Gonzalo BB Bengzon, president of HGC.

The borrowers then stand to benefit from the legislative measure, he added.

In the case of HGC, Bengzon said, about 4,000 of its accounts are considered "non-moving."

He assured borrowers nonmoving when a borrower fails to service his or her debt for five years or more.

HGC, as stated under Republic Act No. 8763, is tasked to implement a credit guaranty program in support of the government's efforts to promote home ownership. Particularly, to provide guaranty to housing loans extended by financial institutions to credit applicants.

The Socialized and Low-Cost Housing Loan Restructuring Act of 2008 has already been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is up for ratification in both houses of Congress.

The Senate version of the bill was authored by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada. That of the House was authored by Rep. Rodolfo Valencia.

The bill aims to ease the burden of homeowners by doing away with the interests and penalties on outdated and low-cost housing loans.

Creditors and guarantors, such as HGC, shall also be allowed to implement a loan-restructuring program for concerned clients.

Currently, Bengzon said, there is not enough flexibility for government entities like HGC to implement loan restructuring.

"The proposed law will help legitimize moves to grant some loan restructuring terms for borrowers," Bengzon said.

Legislators also said the bill would also help the people cope with rising prices of food and other basic commodities.

Although the bill would induce the collectibles of developers and guarantors of socialized and low-cost houses, Bengzon said, it could also help speed up collections of loans guaranteed.

HGC expects collection efficiency to increase from the current 60 percent to 80 percent once the bill is signed into law.

"The bill is pro-borrowers, but this will also be helpful for creditors like HGC," he said.

PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(RFB # HB-2-14)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites accredited manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

NAME OF PROJECT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT (ABC) (PhP)	DELIVERY PERIOD
Power Generator Sets	a. Lump Sum/s • Brand New • Diesel Fired • Industrial Grade • Rated • Typical Genset (open, C.O. or Enclosed type) • Manufacturer/Principal/Supplier - Distributor in area and under/authorized by the Manufacturer to sell/service and hold public bid/s and accompanied with original warranty certificate • With installation, start and testing/s included • Site preparation (Electrical Grounding System and Electrical Installation) • Fuel Tank (Capacity) • Fuel Transfer Pump • Fuel Level Gauge • Fuel Piping, Installation and Accessories/Others b. Lump Sum/s • Brand New • Single Phase • Industrial Grade • Rated • Typical Genset (open, C.O. or Enclosed type) • Manufacturer/Principal/Supplier - Distributor in area and under/authorized by the Manufacturer to sell/service and hold public bid/s and accompanied with original warranty certificate (1-3 Kwatts type) • With installation, start and testing/s included • Site preparation (Electrical Grounding System and Electrical Installation) • Fuel Tank (Capacity) • Fuel Transfer Pump • Fuel Level Gauge • Fuel Piping, Installation and Accessories/Others	2,000,000.00	20 calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidder/s should have an experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years and an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The complete set of specifications can be obtained from Philhealth Regional Office 10, Cagayan de Oro City and posted on the Philhealth website. Interested bidder/s may purchase the bidding documents (satellite) within Phil Health premises. The bidder's name and address must be indicated.

All applicants shall be in Eligible Statement and Screening, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Bid Opening, Bid Security Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, Performance Security, and Notice of Award shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1.	Advertisement in Newspaper of Nationwide Circulation	August 22, 2008
2.	Posting and Issuance of Documents	August 22, 2008
3.	Pre-Bid Conference	August 27, 2008 9:00 a.m. 3rd floor, Gold Commercial Bldg., Velez St., CDO
4.	Bid Opening	September 17, 2008 9:00 a.m. 3rd floor, Gold Commercial Bldg., Velez St., CDO
5.	Post Qualification (within 72 hours) Notice to proceed and other procurement stages	

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 to the Philhealth RFO 10 Cashier.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation reserves its responsibility whatsoever in unfavorably relation to any unforeseen incident in the preparation of the bid.

Philhealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject any and all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Atty. LUCRECIO F. ESCUDERO
BAC Chairperson

RP set to become Asia's auto hub

By Rosemil M. Dumlao

THE LOCAL AUTOMOTIVE INdustry is anticipating an expansion that will be driven by revised investment incentives in Southeast Asia, allowing the country to become the regional production hub of certain vehicle models.

According to Elizabeth Lee, president of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, the world has not up until taken notice of the opportunities in the region due to their world-wide production strategies.

In particular, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. is already in talks "about GKD assembly of a number of commercial vehicle models," said Lee, when it also executed its joint venture with Renault SA and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. "Models that would be introduced in Southeast Asia by 2013 are already being called about new business with projects take some five years."

Lee also said that, although she could not disclose details of the expansion, she believed that "the plans of other automotive players would not be so different."

Lee yesterday said that the Philippines is being an attractive site for operations related to the assembly of completely knocked down kits, would certainly benefit from "efforts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in put up an Asean Economic Community by 2015."

She said that even if vehicles were to be "assembled in a different Asean country, some parts would still be sourced from the Philippines."

"Any expansion in Asean may mean more business for local firms," Lee explained.

The Camp president added that one of the reasons for the holding of the four-day 2nd Philippine International Motor Show was to gather regional offices of global automotive firms and "show them how the country is growing, [and] how it is poised] for further growth."

The PIMS, which opened yesterday, is being held in the World Trade Center in Pasay City until Aug. 24.

Unlike its other countries, soaring prices of fuel has not yet hampered the businesses of local automobiles, Lee said last July. She said Group members were expecting continuing growth in sales for the rest of the year.

She said prices of local vehicles have not risen despite the long-distance oil spike.

"We're seeing 14 percent affect logistics and the cost of raw materials, prices of raw products remain at present levels," Lee said. "This may change, but not yet, so this is the best time to buy."

She said the oversized rollout of country from overseas Filipinos "will help sustain the growth in the domestic industry's success and growth.

Campi and its allied group, the Truck Manufacturers Association, are aiming to sell at least 125,000 units of passenger cars and commercial vehicles this year.

This target means a growth rate of about 7 percent from the estimated 117,000 units sold in 2007.

Campi expects 2008 sales to jump 7% from last year

Taiwan, RP forge direct hiring deal

OVERSEAS WORKERS BOUND for Taiwan may soon be able to deal directly with employers instead of recruitment agencies as the Manila Economic and Cultural Office and the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office have adopted rules on direct hiring.

Moore and Rice signed the joint implementing guidelines of the memorandum of understanding for the Special Hiring Program for Taiwan during the recent Philippines-Taiwan Trade Joint Labor Conference held in Cebu.

Moore assures those that overseas Filipino workers could save up to NT$180,000 or some P163,000 in brokerage expenses through the SHPT aside from lessening brokers' tight grip on Taiwan's foreign labor market.

Special hiring, also called "direct hiring" enables Taiwanese employers to directly hire Filipinos without going through labor brokers and recruiters in the Philippines or Taiwan.

Also, the program allows local Taiwanese employers to hire Filipinos through the Philippine government rather than private agencies.

Moor managing director and resident representative Antonio L. Basilio and Taipei representative Donald C.T. Lee signed the guidelines for the MOU, which Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz and Taiwan's Council of Labor Affairs director general Chen Mu witnessed.

The guidelines provide that the SHPT would cover industrial or factory workers, construction workers, household workers, caregivers, caretakers and institutional nursing workers and fishermen.

Further, the guidelines provide that professional and skilled overseas Filipinos would be placed under the facilitative services of Moeca.

This also means that Moeca would assist in an information dissemination campaign to encourage workers hired under the SHPT who had run away from their legitimate employers to surrender.

For those who surrendered or were detained, Moeca would help facilitate their immediate return to the Philippines.

In cases of disputes between employers and employees, the guidelines provide that these be settled on site through the intervention of Taiwan's Foreign Workers Counseling Center in coordination with Moeca. (Rosemil M. Dumlao)

Gawad Kalinga goes for agriculture

By Brenda M. Ordaiza

LORNED KALINGA (GK) MEANS "to give care." We have seen this by town this in the 1,200 GK villages that are best known for the houses that were built for the poorest of the poor all over the Philippines.

Last August 20, thanks to the dynamic leadership of GK's Tony Meloto and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, GK may soon be equally known as a key catalyst for food security in the Philippines.

On that day, the top management of DE and DA met to discuss an initial draft of GK's food security program. This runs done in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).

Interesting story

For Director Nora Espino (MBDN 32500001) of DA's High Value Crops Program, there's a interesting story that accomplishments in her province in that GK-DA meeting two days ago.

In 2002, when super-low-paper prices dropped from P8 to P4 a kilo, Espino launched a DA program to deliver vegetable livestock that could be only P18 a packet or 200,000 such packets! Smaller.

Espino explained: "For each packet, UPLB carefully selects a combination of vegetable foundation seeds that provide the correct balance of vitamins, minerals and proteins. The vitamins and minerals come from the leafy vegetables, while the proteins come from the legumes."

The successor generations of these "foundations seeds" can remain their high quality for up to four generations.

During that time of great hunger in the wake of the typhoon, these seeds provided at extremely low cost were of great help to them. The P 50 packet of seeds and their successor generations were good for a whole year.

In 2003, Espino resigned from DA. But her could not forget that benefits this vegetable seed program provided the poor. He thought those benefits could be maximized if this program was done in an organized community for follow-up and expansion purposes.

In December 2006, while back in the private sector, Espino once again launched this organized community initiative in the organized GK community of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, known to GK as Sitio San Roque.

COMMENTARY

This was sponsored by the Ateneo de Manila University GS 64, HS 55, and College 59 class, then chaired by Ruiz Agcaoili. Espino was impressed by these GK residents' determination to not only for their own nutritional needs, but also for providing food for others and starting entrepreneurs.

In 2007, Espino resumed to DA. Though successful in implementing the Dti program, he recommitted here mind to the effective they could be what close with organized communities. Last week, he went to see Mario Flores and John Concepcion, the DE productivity head and chairperson, respectively, to discuss what the organized GK community could be incorporated nationally in the GK communities.

At that meeting, he found out that the GK was thinking along similar lines, but in the context of a national food security program. This led Espino to the DE-DA meeting two days ago.

Food security program

At that meeting, the proposed GK food security program was discussed. Aside from vegetables, the program included livestock, backyard fish pond, bee keeping, trees, medicinal plants, water segregation, a waste system and a training and technology transfer program.

Representing GK were executive director Luis Oposmos, special projects head Ben Montemayor, and GK Visayas head Ed Gonzales. UPLB was represented by former Dean of Agriculture Carolito Adalla. CLSU by vice president Eduardo Macuha, and DA by assistant Secretary Dennis Araullo and DA policy persons assigned to DE from every region.

At that meeting, DE and DA agreed in principle concentrate on promoting self-sufficiency. The DA slogan was "Tatayo Ito, Pagkain Mo." GK's was "Na Ito Land, Sa Iilo Hand."

Flores (0928-5581859) said: "There are 10 to 15 agency interventions between the GK Villages. Rather than remaining idle, this land should be used to provide food for the family." Araullo said: "While we will also do commercial projects, we will focus on the family producing the food it needs."

On a phased basis, the goal is to have this food security project implemented in all 1,200 GK villages. At an average of 40+ families per village and five persons per family, 240,000 GK residents will be able to provide for their own nutritional needs.

For every village, there will be a GK food security point person. He or she will partner with the appropriate counterpart point persons from the DA, the local government units and the next by state university or college that can help provide training and technology transfer.

With the organized social network of GK, this food security program will help attain the GK motto: "Dwelling not for the homeless, food for the hungry, and as a result, providing dignity and peace for every Filipino." (www.gawadkalinga.org)

Conclusion

After a four-year search for an organized community that has nationwide reach, Espino found more than he expected.

As a key member of the GK team led by Araullo, his vegetable seed program will now be launched nationwide, with GK as a key partner in a self-sufficient food security program. The multiplier effects from this program cannot be underestimated.

The implemented GK food security project can serve as models for neighboring communities and provinces. The success of increasing hunger and escalating food prices, GK going agri is exactly what our nation needs.

(The author is chair of Agrinurish, former secretary for presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry for agri-business and supports. e-mail agrinurish@yahoo.com or mobile (632) 9532112)

Canada firm pushes local gov't support for ICT

By Rica T. Chichioco

INFORMATION AND COMMUnications technology (ICT) firms such as contact centers can inject over P40 million a month into a local economy there basic economic study, according to a study by Canada-based ICT research and advisory firm IDRC.

The advisory firm has thus advised local government units (LGUs) to understand and provide the needs of the ICT sectors.

Based on the latest IDRC findings, a typical facility here is clustered in the second quarter of 2008, an average agent working in the Philippine ICT industry has a basic salary ranging from P15,000 to P21,000 depending on experience, type of skill, account served and site location.

Using a typical contact center agent as a benchmark, between 1,000 and 3,999 full-time workers as an institution, IDRC estimates an inflation of P42 million into the local economy a month from basic salaries alone.

The index shows that 42 percent of that income is spent on food, 14 percent on housing, 11 percent on education, 11 percent on clothing, 6 percent on miscellaneous spending such as gifts and contributions, 6 percent on various recreation activities and 2 percent on transportation and communication.

From the 42 percent on food spending, more than a third is spent on fast-food joints, restaurants and bars as agents have a relatively higher disposable income compared to minimum wage earners.

Based on IDRC's mid-year review of the Philippine ICT in dustry for 2008, total ICT industry employment will close at around 340,000 to 360,000 nationwide. More than 70 percent of this labor force will be located in Metro Manila.

IDRC estimates that an additional 100,000 to 140,000 people will be needed through 2010 to meet increased demand as expansion plans and global pipeline deals close.

IDRC urges local governments to entice large ICT operators by providing tax breaks, infrastructure and telecommunications development and customized incentives to lure investors.

Industry analyst Benedict Bermudez said, "LGUs should begin to realize the potential economic impact of ICT call centers and BPO companies to their city or province in terms of development and progress or risk losing opportunities such as sustainable livelihood provided by the industry directly or indirectly."

As the industry rapidly grows, more so-called ICT tier 2 cities such as Cebu, Baguio, Clark, Subic and even Davao are ramping up their efforts to ground breaking ICT basics.

Most local government units are now taking the opportunity as a viable source of constant employment in the area as more companies are now forced to relocate or expand outside Metro Manila, where costs are manageable and competition for talent is less stiff.

Inflation seen at 13-14% in Q3

Gov't borrowings up 14% in first 7 months

By Michelle V. Rosca

GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS grew by 14 percent in the first seven months of the year from a year earlier, on the need to pump-prime the economy required higher spending for infrastructure and social services.

According to Department of Finance records, the government borrowed P311.70 billion in January to July, up from P289.97 billion in the same period last year.

The year-on-year rise in borrowings was largely accounted for by debts incurred in July, when the government sold P59 billion worth of retail treasury bonds to the domestic market.

In July alone, the government borrowed P69 billion, more than doubling the P27.02 billion in the same month last year.

Borrowings made through the sale of RTBs were not included in the government's original fiscal program. The government, however, decided to borrow more than previously planned to keep the economy afloat amid a global economic slowdown.

The government had aimed at posting a balanced budget this year, hoping to borrow only to cover maturing loans with operations and projects to be financed with internally generated funds.

But the strain arising from the accelerated increase in the prices of fuel and food had forced the government to abandon the goal of posting a balanced budget this year. It is now allowing itself to post a maximum budget deficit of P70 billion for this year.

BSP data showed that of the borrowings in the first seven months, the bulk or P285.62 billion was obtained from domestic creditors, while the balance of P46.14 billion came from foreign lenders.

Bank expects economy to expand by 5.1 percent

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN BANKING GIANT Citigroup sees inflation on the Philippines peaking at 13-14 percent in the third quarter.

The bank also projected that domestic economic growth this year would slow down to 5.1 percent from the 10-year high of 7.2 percent one last year, while full-year inflation was seen in average 10.8 percent for the 2.0 percent last year.

"Elevated food prices mean headline inflation could stay double-digit in the second half of the year and keep the tight monetary bias intact," Citigroup said in its global economic outlook dated Aug. 20.

Consumer prices rose by an average of 12.2 percent in July, the fastest pace in 17 years, bringing the seven-month inflation rate average to 9.3 percent.

Central banks eighers monetary policy—such as by raising key interest rates and the rate on banks' reserve requirements—in order to curb further consumer and business spending that may fuel inflation.

In June and July, the BSP tightened by jacking up its key policy rate, the overnight borrowing rate, by a total of 75 basis points.

The trade-off be a tight monetary policy is slower economic growth.

Citigroup's latest GDP growth forecast for the Philippines is lower than the government's revised growth outlook of 5.5-6.5 percent.

"Broken fiscal spending increases significantly, meeting oil prices alone would not be sufficient to upgrade our GDP forecasts of 5.1 percent in 2008 and slightly below 5 percent in 2009," Citigroup said.

Citigroup's average inflation forecast for this year is within the BSP's forecast of 9-11 percent.

For next year, the bank sees the country's GDP growth subsiding to 4.9 percent and average inflation rate tapering to 7.7 percent.

Aboitiz to start coal plant construction in Oct.

GOINGS-ON

Meco gets ISO seal

THE MANILA ELECTRIC RAILROAD AND LIGHTING CORPORATION has obtained the International Organization for Standardization 9001:2000 certification.

Meco officials said the ISO certification was further proof of Meco's dedication to excellence and quality of services. In 2006, Meco, along with the US trade mission, were already acknowledged as best foreign trade and cultural missions in Taiwan.

Antonio Gastino, Meco managing director, said Meco had pursued extra effort in having its system certified to ensure it was a reliable organization that was committed to client satisfaction. The ISO seal also serves as a guarantee that Meco will comply with legal requirements and continue to improve its services.

Security Bank cited

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) granted the Special Recognition for Advocacy Support – Conference and Hedging Facilities for Exporters to Security Bank Corp. during the 2008 BSP Annual Stakeholders' Awards.

The citation recognizes the bank's support in the form of information and education campaigns initiated to promote hedging and derivatives products.

Security Bank's active role in educating the business sector on the conservation opportunities highlights its in-depth knowledge and expertise in providing hedging and derivatives solutions to the market.

Landbank names awardees

LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LANDBANK) awards to four outstanding participating financial institutions (PFIs) in the Countryside Loan Fund (CLF) Programs in a ceremony held recently in Manila.

Rizal Global Bank was named the CLF Best Program Partner in the commercial banks category, while Philippine Development Bank won in the thrift banks category, and Cebu Metro Leasing and Finance Corp. bagged the award for non-bank financial institutions category.

By Abigail L. Ho

SABLAYAN, PAMPANGA – BUENDIO Peninsula Energy Inc., a joint venture between Aboitiz Power Corp. and Taiwan Cogen International Corp., will be breaking ground for the first phase of its 600-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Subic Bay.

Aboitiz Power vice president Wilfredo Isaacson Jr. said the firm was just awaiting its environmental compliance certificate.

As soon as this is secured, the joint venture could already start with the plant construction, he said, adding that he saw no hitches in the issuance of the ECC since the group was compliant with all environment regulations, as far as the proposed coal-fired power plant was concerned.

The plant will use the circulating fluidized bed combustion technology, which significantly reduces harmful emissions.

This , Isaacson said, would make the Subic plant 20-30 percent more expensive than the usual coal-fired power plant.

"But it's definitely cleaner. Aboitiz Power is one of the biggest renewable energy companies in the country and we don't want to hurt our reputation by engaging in non-clean practices," he said.

The 300 MW venture is expected to spend $500 million for the plant, which would initially have a 300-MW capacity. The first 300-MW facility will be commissioned in 2011.

Resources said negotiations were already underway with financial institutions that would bankroll the project.

In a separate interview, Aboitiz Power president Erramon Aboitiz said the construction of the 300 MW second phase of the plant would depend on the outcome of the first 300-MW capacity.

"We don't want to do it until we're sure that all 300 MW is contracted," he said.

He did express confidence, however, that the plant would have enough offtakers, considering that there was an expected power shortfall within the Subic economic zone by 2012.

CGA gold project gets $85-M loan

By Bernard M. Domingo

CGA MINING LTD. OF AUSTRALIA SAID AN $85 million loan facility had been made available for its Masbate gold project, which was targeted to start production in early 2009.

In a statement, CGA Mining said it had met all pre-conditions for the drawdown on the $85 million loan arranged by BNP Paribas.

The company's plans to mine and produce at least 210,000 ounces of gold at $319 an ounce—or some $180 million—which it said had been half done.

Also, CGA Mining said key mill equipment needed for the Masbate project were expected to have been delivered on site by mid-August to development progress toward gold production beginning in February.

The firm said two units of ball mills—to be fabricated in Cebu under the supervision of an Australian contractor at a cost of $3.7 million (about P165.5 million)—and most of the ancillary equipment from Perth, Australia had arrived in Masbate last week.

The remaining components for the ball mills—and to truck unsorted materials—are being fabricated and repaired while additional ones still must have been ordered.

Also, the company said the $6-million (about P260 million) refurbishment of a semi-autogenous mill and related equipment had been completed in Canada.

CGA Mining said development work at the gold processing plant in Masbate was two weeks ahead of the latest schedule and was now 60 percent complete, with engineering and design now 95 percent complete.

Also, contractors have been tapped for the construction of an on-site power station.

CGA Mining said it has for the year $68.7 million for the development of the Masbate project and that it had cash reserves of $45.35 million.

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RP to lure tourists with Pinoy brands

Move aimed at rivaling neighboring countries 'grand sale' promos

By Roland N. Clavasign

FINALLY, THERE WILL BE A shopping festival in the Philippines that would rival neighboring countries' "grand sale" promotions, which tend some of our Kababayans packing to shopper their bargain-hunting skills.

However, this one billed "September Shopfest Philippines 2008," is aimed at foreign spenders and those not so different homegrown.

It's not the imported designer brands that lure foreign tourists to the Philippines for shopping; it's the Filipino brands. And coming to learn about it from his own distributor "superpersonal" into the psyche and mindset of his target markets abroad, tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano is putting the Filipino brands upfront in positioning the Philippines as an international shopping destination.

A collaboration between the local retailers and the Department of Tourism, the campaign is also meant to create new markets for retailers amid dampened demand due to inflation. The initiative was launched during the opening of the 17th National Retail Conference last Aug. 13-17.

"The retail business is adaptable in that it could ride on whichever industry is booming. Today, the tourism industry is booming," says Jimmi Lim, chairperson of the Philippine Retailers Association.

Lim said it was high time for the country to have a big shopping event considering that earlier this year, there had been campaigns like Malaysia Mega Sale, Amazing Thailand Grand Sale, Great Singapore Sale and even the Dubai Shopping Festival.

Durano says the; unlike the other shopping events, the local one was not about high brands and big discounts.

"September Shopfest is about the quality and affordability of what we will have in the Philippines, which are consumer goods for everyday use," Durano explains. "We are targeting the Asia-Pacific markets."

He says that he had always got feedback that tourists were impressed with the quality of make of local products despite their relatively lower prices as well as the hospitality of local salespeople.

There are not the types of products that are so expensive that one has to come there only on very important occasions. These products range from clothes, shirts, shoes and bags for casual wear to semi-precious gems and fashion accessories, all the way to gift items made of non-traditional materials for souvenirs and other amazing surprises that are nonetheless very Filipino.

"They [foreign tourists] love coming to the Philippine because they love our local brands and are proud to have them for everyday use," Durano stressed.

"We ask on the September Shopfest will be open in Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and other parts of the Asia Pacific, including India and Spain," Durano said. "We have our own approach compared to that of our neighbors in Southeast Asia, so this does not undermine the initiative to promote a 'one Asean' destination."

He is referring to efforts among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to package the region as a unified tourism destination, partly to help countries that may not be interesting enough be visited if considered alone.

"We know that retailers have right margins now, the last thing we want is to ask them to give discount," Durano says.

"We can compete without having to go head-on, it's a matter of finding a market segment that appreciates the type of shopping we provide—the Asia-Pacific."

"The September tag is just a deadline for the retailers to join the campaign, which will run in after that," he says. "So far, most of the major malls had signed up."

The Department of Tourism aims at the travel industry pooling a total of $5.6 billion in tourist spending this year, which is already way past the $5-billion targets for 2010 that was set two years ago.

Asked why Shopfest Philippines comes only now, Durano says the local tourism industry had been busy "bringing in the source leaders," has now the focus is on the value of the visits.

"This is part of our countering effort to focus on higher-value activity," he explains. "The difference of our campaigns in shopping is that this is not a grand sale. It is really about the Filipino brand and an all-year round campaign."

Tourism chief adds that after September, the DOT and the retailers would come out with another campaign that would sustain the momentum.

"For the tourists, the benefit will be value," he says. "We have had tourists telling us that they are attracted to shop for Filipino brands of RTWs, shoes, etc., not because of a sale but because these are well-made and affordable."

For the retailers, the incentive to participate in the campaign is the creation of a new market base considering that the domestic market has been, as Durano describes it, "already saturated."

At the same time, the DOTs Lim says the group was preparing a proposal to the government for a refund of the value-added tax for tourists.

"Other countries have had that for some time now," Lim says. "It's about time that we do, and it would help attract more visitors to come here."

IT'S NOT the imported designer brands that lure foreign tourists to the Philippines for shopping; it's the Filipino brands.

Advice on Pricing (Part 1)

BY CONTRIBUTING TO REPUBlish our past pricing series columns for this week and next it will most week's column.

Q: I'm an avid reader of your column. I am a new manufacturer of jewelry and native handbags here in Cebu. I'm planning to join trade shows here and abroad. My before our products are of export quality. Could you help us in pricing? How do we ensure our price so that we will be competitive in the international market?

A: We're actually talking about two product lines: Jewelry and native handbags. You're also talking about two market segments: Here and abroad. However, your question about pricing is concerned more about the international market than the domestic market. So let's simplify matters first by discussing your pricing concern in relation to the international market and to last one of your product lines, say, native handbags.

You can then diagnose your pricing question on your other product line—fashion jewelry—and in your other market segments along the lines that we will take for your native handbags in the international market.

Begin with your competitor

Let's begin our diagnosis along your question of how to compute your price so that you will be competitive in the international market.

Your starting point is your decision about your target competitor in your "international market" for your native handbags. What is the price of your target competitor price in the specific international market you want to participate in?

Price sensitivity

This means that you need to do some serious preliminary fact finding and data gathering. Other exporters, who want to skip this step, leave everything about pricing to their "buyers." We've said many if you want to do that. We assume that you'd like to be directly involved in this marketing decision. So let's proceed along that assumption.

As a "beginning price," your target competitor's pricing needs adjusting upward or downward according to other primary pricing considerations. The first of these is your target market's pricing sensitivity. This sensitivity is influenced, among other things, by product quality.

You said that your handbags are of "export quality." That is you, the marketer, speaking. But what about your target international consumers? How do they rate your handbags? Have you product tested to find out?

We're sure your immediate reaction to that last question is: "How can I afford to survey my target German and French consumers?" (But to lead specifically to our discussion, let's assume your initial target international consumers are Germany and France.) If you do your product testing in Germany and France, that is sure to cost you an arm and a leg and maybe even more. So don't do it there. Be cost-effective. Survey in "surrogate" or opposition/foil who are still Germans and French. Here's a specific example to explain.

How Jollibee 'exported' the Champ burger

When we used to do Jollibee's product testing and it wanted to find out, for example, how Caucasians would react to the Champ, we didn't go to Los Angeles and San Francisco to do the product test. We product tested with LA and SF tourists billeted at our fun-zone hotels. There at these hotels consented to use during the product test with their guests from Los Angeles and San Francisco. That's how we got the data necessary to answer that all-important question: "How do your target German and French consumers see your handbags? What value perceptions do they see in your handbags as distinctive or else below par versus competition?" So product test in Cebu hotels (where you already are) and in Davao hotels where you may find your Germans and French tourists.

These perceived distinctive and below-par values now become the basis for your upward and downward adjusting of your beginning price.

Next week, we'll discuss how these values can now help you set your prices.

Feedback at Market-ingRx@MYEMAIL.net

How do you sell ₱190T washing machines

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

Mid-Lit dryer and washer

SELLING PREMIUM PRODucts in a developing country like the Philippines is not an easy job.

But that hasn't become understood the consumer understands how it can become more economical to invest in a product with a steeper tag price once than buying its cheap counterpart twice or thrice.

In selling premium items, highlighting a product's superior quality and the "value for money" comment get it of more importance.

Once a buyer fully comprehends the worth of the product he or she purchases, the price becomes almost irrelevant and a sale is made.

This is how it works for Miele, a German manufacturer of premium domestic appliances, according to Mario Miranda, the company's managing director for South Asia.

"In the long run, it's always the product with the most seamless performance that becomes the least expensive among all," Miranda told the business in the sidelines of Miele's "Superior Laundry Care" program launched recently at the company's showroom in Mandaluyong City.

Miele Philippines Corp. has compromise and its 100 years of experience in manufacturing the best appliances have allowed them to produce items with features that are only be found in their brand.

Miele is the company that produced the first washing machine in 1901.

At the launch, Miele introduced updated versions of its high-end laundry machines "designed to offer the ultimate in gentle laundry care."

In the country since 1981, Miranda admitted that their main challenge remains communicating to clients the difference their products, especially their washing machines, from other "cheaper" brands.

"In the Philippines, washers are always hidden in the back of the houses. Washing clothes is still considered a chore rather than a hobby," said Miranda, who has been with Miele for over 25 years.

Because it's the housewife who usually do the laundry in the country, Miele's job is to convince customers to invest in something that they (household heads) do not personally see themselves.

"As we ask them: Who wears the expensive clothes with the delicate fabric? Who buys the high quality bed sheets and linens?" Miranda said. "We offer them a chance to really take care of their clothes, especially those with sentimental values."

Aside from investing heavily in research, Miele also takes into account feedback they get from their customers and distributors, as they put premium on innovations, dependability and durability.

He said each of the one million washers Miele produces in a year goes through endurance tests before leaving the factory.

"Someone in detail to our products is very important. Every little part in our washing machine is designed to last at least 20 years," he said. "By that time, one would have had purchased two or three other washing machines."

The savings one gets from the "intelligent" Miele washing machines even benefit the buyer, said Stephen Ey, the president of Baron Global, the exclusive distributor of international brands in the country including Miele.

"With Miele washing machines, there's no need for any time sorting. The washer calculates itself the proper amount of water and detergent needed for different type of clothes with its intelligent pre-settings," Ey explained.

Because of the product's enduring features, clothes last longer, saving time as well," Ey said.

While the housewives and homemakers remain Miele's target market, Miranda clarified that their products are for anyone who wishes to treat their clothes and fabrics the proper way.

Want to be treated up in interest from fashion industry people as well, he said, as most runway clothes cost a fortune, therefore meriting superior care.

That is why the company chose Filipino fashion designer Raju Lasco as the brand's local endorser.

Part of the benefit of using Miele washers are its lower energy consumption and less water and detergent compared with other brands.

"Our washers use only less than 1 kilowatt of power and 17 liters of water per cycle," he said. Other washers, he said, use more than 2 kilowatt of power and 120 liters of water per cycle.

With the prices of their washing machines reaching up to as much as ₱190,000 and the tumble dryer by as much as ₱120,000, Miranda said he does not consider any other brand as their competition.

"Miele is in a league of its own," he said. "There's just no one else in the high-end washing machine category that even comes close."

Miele being around just proves that not all washers are created equal, Miranda said in jest.

MIELE managing director for South Asia Mario Miranda

THE POWER OF NEW

How a small start-up grew amid odds

By Frances J. Yu
Contributor

ALMOST EVERY WOMAN UNderstands the power of new when it comes to getting a new dress, a new bag, or new shoes. Similarly, you can understand your every or party with an elevated sense of self. You feel more powerful and more confident. In the same way even probably feel the same way when they buy themselves a new car. The power of new is universally understood and appreciated.

Going back in time, we now flashback to Feb. 7, 2002, the opening day of Shoprite in E. Rodriguez Avenue or more popularly referred to as Libis. It is historical moment, this store opening is occurring right after the bombing of the Twin Towers in New York City in Sept. 11, 2001.

Born fide chain

With the opening of this third store, we could see we are seeing emerging as a bona fide retail chain. We could actually see a new business rising for our small start-up that comprised of two stores. This brand new store is opening in a strip of road which is fourlaning to become a progress rapidly. Existing developments such as Eastwood and a whole slew of new entertainment, services, and other well-known establishments are beginning to spring forth, making Libis a major nightspot and soon-to-be retail hub. The newness of it all creates palpable excitement.

We planned for a high profile launch with professionals to suppol to ensure the store's launch. Almost seven are on the roof of the store completed with background music as they all strike a pose. The excelling begins. They rappel down in a mechanism like a curtain cover, unveiling the store's facade. Shortly and with dramatic flair the Shoprite logo is revealed. Applause breaks out, led by guests of honor Kris Aquino and Mayor Feliciano Belmonte. The program is capped off by the live performance of Jessica Sanchez, Geneva Cruz and Judy Ann Santos who lend the guests and customers up the walls about how the brand new store.

The first installment of the Shoprite story illustrated the need to prepare for success. The second installment discussed the powerful pull of value and how proposition of business and promotions. This third installment will talk about the power of innovation and why the Filipino consumer is delighted by newness.

Innovations become basics

Innovation is generally good for the economy and an industry. However, the challenge in innovating is that it will create expectations increase in consumers spawning consumer market. Miranda clarified that their products are for anyone who wishes to treat their clothes and fabrics the proper way.

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MIELE managing director for South Asia Mario Miranda

SHOPRITE introduced "the cart" to make shopping easy for mothers.

Today in the year 2008, the competitive landscape in Libis has changed dramatically. There are now more players within a hop, skip, and a jump away from Shoprite. The malls have become more congested as more established names set up shop making it more difficult for customers to come to the store. Coincidentally, Shoprite Libis at the present time has just undergone a major renovation, with new shelves, new products, and new layout, and resuming new promotions. It looks brand new. As soon as the renovation were completed, the store aisles jumped by double digits.

Truly, the power of new never ceases to amaze.

Innovation is flattery

The challenge of maintaining to simply remarketed when you are reborn before your feet. As they say, imitation is the highest form of flattery. It is even more frustrating when customers express their appreciation for an innovation undertaken for their benefit.

In the years that followed, many of the innovations introduced in Shoprite Libis did become mainstays in modern supermarkets. There were even large multinational brands who unveiled their gigantic billboards via rappelling as we did in Shoprite Libis in February 2002.

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A peek into how an innovator innovates

By Princess Dalrymple C. Dimalaya

EVER WONDERED HOW those different Greenwich pizzas came to be? Do you want to know how local producers like us test and refine] egg-studded cup or toppings? Then let's take a peek at what happens in Greenwich's kitchen.

All new ideas are hatched within the research and development rooms. They scour the island for the food industry as well as overseas to find unfeatured local cuisines. The R&D team, headed by Suzanne Cruz, keeps abreast of what the consumers want and, at the same time, come up with fresh, creative ideas that appeal to the young, resilient Filipinos' sense of adventure, their wondrous palates and their preferences of what's out of the ordinary.

"We have a group of food experts here who study consumers' behavior, the way they eat, their market, upon taking that first bite, how they choose the products that they eventually purchase. We also talk to the consumers for feedback. Suggestions are welcome, whether they are from our own employees or from our loyal patrons. The team also goes to different places to find out of the country research of local, innovative ideas and unique recipes," Cruz relates.

After brainstorming on ideas and suggestions, the team then tries to experiment and develop new and exciting products. Greenwich has a state-of-the-art kitchen where all the magic takes place. A group of people in the kitchen, referred to as R&D specialists, makes the prototype of the team's ideas for a set of panel taste test. In closing Oct. the R&D team immediately see if they have a winner or its back to the drawing board. From the way the pizzas are] pastas look are given extreme importance by Greenwich.

Those new products are then launched after going through scrutiny to satisfy Greenwich's young and adventurous market.

"Our quest to give our consumers a variety of choices is there—we make it a point to offer them superior value as well. Superior taste plus best value such as customer loyalty," Cruz says.

Greenwich is very proud of introducing to the Filipinos pizzas with ingredients familiar to all of us. Sisig pizza, Red Egg royale, Mangga Pizza and Pizza de Leche. They made sure of popular Filipino dishes and infused creativity and superior taste to pizza flavors like no one has seen or tasted before.

GREENWICH's R&D head Suzanne Cruz

RAKING Greenwich Overload—a consistent bestseller

Aside from these, Greenwich also has the Delicious and Light line which is a complete menu of delicious yet healthy and light products from pizza, pasta, dessert to beverage. This menu caters to the health-conscious people who still want a dose of their favorite Greenwich products, without worrying about their diet.

"Anyone's needs or cravings can be found in Greenwich. We have the crispy hoisters menu for those who need the carbs, we also have pizzas for the vegans, and for those who love lots of toppings, we have the Overloaded Pizza," adds Cruz.

Launched early this year, the Overloaded Pizza boasts of seven kinds of meats and flavors—Italian sausage, ground beef, pepperoni, salami strips, bacon, parmesan cheese and mozzarella cheese. Deliciously filling, Overloaded Pizza is a feast for every pizza topping lover.

Meant for lunch, Overloaded Pizza has been the consistent bestseller in Greenwich's menu.

Not to overlook its customers who still prefer the simple, fewer toppings like cream pizza, Greenwich also introduced recently the Classic Italian line. It has flavors such as Pepperoni, Salami Italiano, Smoked Bacon, Italian Sausage and Mozzarella Garlic.

Greenwich also launched several dips for the pizza edges, a part of pizza usually left off in the plate.

To prevent the "same" factor, Greenwich also makes sure that some of its products are constantly reinvented, or put into hiatus for a few months to give way to new variants. If public choice is overwhelming for a product that is included, Greenwich brings it back much better and tastier.

"Setting trends in taste is important to us as people expect us to innovate. That is why we invest a lot on resources to know what is coming, what will be the next trend," Cruz says.

But it is not only in their products that Greenwich pushes for innovation on. The food chain also gives importance to quality service to its customers. They have Greenwich Infothreads, a daily service innovation that allows people to send delicious pizza, pastas and more to anyone, anywhere in the Philippines where there is a Greenwich outlet. It has 240 stores across the country.

And with its quest of giving the most innovative products and services to the people, Greenwich will surely keep on surprising its loyal customers, and make them ever very satisfied.

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Kraft RP wins world marketing award

KRAFT HAS PENETRATED THE HANDS OF marketing excellence as set by worldwide consumer giant Kraft Foods.

"On behalf of the Kraft Global IMC service committee, I wanted to congratulate the Philippines for its outstanding work on the Tribevene 'Thank You Day program,' says Sharon Parsons, vice president for marketing for Kraft Foods Asia Pacific.

"Among some truly outstanding IMC programs around the world, the Tribevene campaign has been recognized as the 'best-of-the-best' IMC programs in all of Kraft Foods."

The campaign was dedicated to reviving the practice of saying "thank you" in the hope of addressing a growing public concern that the traditional value of gratitude among Filipinos was eroding. With roots rooted in cultural values, Thank You Day was met with enthusiasm from the public. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim officially declared Oct. 20 as the National Thank You Day.

The project is the first PR-led initiative to be awarded this prestigious honor. Thank You Day was notable for being wholly conceptualized and executed in the Philippines with the assistance of GolinHarris Communications, a local marketing firm who introduced the concept of transformative marketing in the Philippines.

"This is the first time that an entry from within the Asia-Pacific Region has been recognized with this prestigious honor," he adds.

A campaign anchored on the virality of the concept, Thank You Day substantially impacted the brand through exposure in the form of media coverage and the Philippine Internet community. Sustaining buzz was achieved through strategic and non-traditional partnerships with retailers, big box spectacles, tactical signages and tapping the power to determine the users to reach and imprint itself on the public consciousness.

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When supply exceeds demand (as in most industries nowadays), traditionalists often resort to the age-old school of competitive positioning. This simply results in brands competing in the bloody red ocean in the marketplace. New evidence points to the effectiveness of a structured way of thinking, known as **Blue Ocean Strategy (BOS)**, which enables marketers, strategists and businessmen to alter the basic shape of their industry to create a new business logic and really break out of competitive parity, generating new demand while simultaneously pursuing both differentiation and low cost.

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ADRIAN GO – is the 1st and only BOS-qualified strategist in the Philippines who successfully completed the BOS qualification process in Pretoria in 2006 under the authors themselves. He underwent international BOS training in New York, Sydney and Singapore. He was also the 1st professor of a 6-unit full semester BOS course in Southeast Asia. Joseph has personally handled over 500 workshops in marketing and sales, and dozens of companies utilizing Blue Ocean Strategy.

BEE ROBERTO, Ph. D – is the marketing research guru of the Philippines with the distinction of having the 1st and only Filipino with a doctoral degree in marketing research at Kellogg's Business School and is a co-author of Philip Kotler. He is a respected columnist (Marketing Pro) and a former professor of international marketing at the Asian Institute of Management. Dr. Roberto has authored 10 best-selling books, taught at the Kellogg Graduate School and at the Euro-Asia Centre of INSEAD.

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Social entrepreneurship: Make all a change-maker

By Harvey S. Bah
Contributor

RENGO MERCADO HAS BEEN WORKING as an assistant architect for 15 years in Saudi Arabia. Last year, he got a one-month leave and was finally able to visit his family in Laguna after four years.

Upon arrival, he was shocked to know his family was in disarray. His wife was not able to save a single centavo from the remittances he had been sending, his eldest son was a drug addict.

For Rengo, all the sacrifices and years of hard work was for nothing.

This story is a familiar refrain for many families of overseas Filipino workers. The social consequence of this continuing migration of Filipinos has been broken families and problematic children who grow up without the proper guidance of parents.

Mai Asunsuro, together with other overseas Filipino returnees, decided to form Ashiba, a nonprofit organization that aims to provide economic and social services to overseas Filipinos and their families. Ashiba is currently active in supporting families of OFWs in Batangas and Laguna.

Among its most successful program is the Barong Ashiba Savers Club where children of OFWs are taught the value of saving money while providing an outlet for these children to express their values through arts and crafts workshops.

Teaching children of OFWs to save money is very important since it is usually these children who spend on unnecessary luxuries such as new cellular phones. The parents often give in to these whims as a means of trying to make up for their absence.

Another initiative by Ashiba is providing financial literacy and entrepreneurship training to the families of the OFWs.

Studies show that it is often the parent that is left behind who needs to be educated about where to invest the remittances that are sent by the parent who is working abroad. Through these training programs, Ashiba helps scrimpers how to service similar to that of Bonnie's family. Ashiba is an example of how social entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurs can help possess a better quality of life here in the Philippines.

Social entrepreneurship is defined as developing innovative, scalable and sustainable means of solving social problems using the skills that are also used by successful entrepreneurs.

Mai and her friends are examples of social entrepreneurs who looked at the problems faced by families of OFWs as an opportunity for them to be able to develop a holistic program that would be able to help these families cope with the absence of one or more members. Social entrepreneurs are individuals who act as change agents in society, inventing new approaches and pattern-changing solutions to our most pressing social problems.

Another example of a successful social enterprise is BagoBoBoo (B2B) which helps provide rag-makers in Payatas, Quezon City a better quality of life by helping them improve their products. Before B2B was established, these rag-makers, who are also mothers, would only make P3-P 2 pesos per rag and most of the profit would be made by the middlemen who sell their rags to different department stores. When B2B was established by a group of young professionals and the Stettenberg Lingkod ng Bayan, they provide these rag-makers direct access to the market enabling them to earn up to 500 percent more than what they used to earn.

Aside from this, B2B was also able to convince Indian designer Rajo Laxmi to help them develop different types of products using the rags. Among the products that Raja developed were bags, purses, wine bottle holders and yoga mat holders. By developing these new products, the value of the rags is increased resulting in added income to the rag makers.

Now, these mothers of Payatas are able to have enough money to put food on the table at least three times a day and send their children to school. These rag-makers continue to be part of B2B as they are always consulted by the management team on the future plans of this social enterprise. Since it started its operations last year, B2B has already sold more than P1 million pesos worth of rags and helped more than 40 families live a better quality of life.

Currently, there are a few institutions that are pushing for the development of more social entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurships in the Philippines.

Among them are the Ateneo de Manila University-*School of Government* (Asog) which runs classes, seminars and training programs to interested individuals and corporations.

One of its main projects is the yearly Future Leaders of Asia Forum (FLAF) on Social Entrepreneurship which introduces social entrepreneurship to student leaders from colleges and universities all over the Philippines and Asia. The top social enterprise business plans that were conceptualized by the participants of the FLAF were given small startup funds by Coca-Cola Foundation to be rated to implement their plans. Aside from this, the Asog also runs a youth social entrepreneurship training program in Barangka City with Greenwich Pizza and the Jollibee Foundation. The Greenwich-YLEAD program provides training, mentorship and startup funds to youth leaders in Barangka City to enable them to create social enterprises that will help alleviate problems in their communities. Last 2006, Ateneo, the world's leading organization that supports social entrepreneurs formally opened its operations here in the Philippines. Ateneo Philippines which was founded and currently led by former Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Antonio La Viña aims to identify budding Filipino social entrepreneurs to provide them with financial support and access to the Ateneo global network of other social entrepreneurs. When one is chosen as an Ateneo fellow, he is given a monthly living stipend for three years so as to be one with full time on his social enterprise without worrying about his or her day to day living expenses.

The first batch of Ateneo fellows from the Philippines is expected to be announced early next year.

(The author is is the director for Youth Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship at the Ateneo de Manila University-School of Government and is also the program manager for Ateneo-Youth Venture here in the Philippines.)

Feedback at (02) 426-6001 or e-mail at harveybah@gmail.com.

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FEATURES IN BRIEF

GE posts huge sale from Olympics

GE, AN OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, ANNOUNCED IT HAS EXCEEDED ITS sales goal for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, winning 466 infrastructure projects in and around Beijing that will generate $700 million in revenues.

NBC Universal will also generate a record of more than $1 billion in advertising revenues, making the Beijing Games the most successful Games in GE's history.

GE, which has been providing technology to support the Olympic Games and other major sporting events for more than 70 years, is managing projects in all 37 official Beijing Games competition venues and 108 commercial buildings in and around Beijing. Several projects feature technological "firsts" for China, including filtration technology for safe drinking water and rainwater recycling at the National Stadium ("Bird's Nest"), 13 electrical substations to provide power at more than 30 Olympic Games venues and advanced baggage screening at the Beijing Capital International Airport. Additionally, GE is supplying 139 wind turbines to the Zhangbei and Shangyi wind farms north of Beijing, which supply energy to the Olympic Control Area.

3M is everywhere in Beijing

3M PRODUCTS and technologies are working behind the scenes in Beijing. Thousands of athletes and sports fans at the 2008 Olympics may not see 3M, but 3M products and technologies are hard at work, enhancing the experience for participants and spectators alike.

3M's offerings range from cables for computer systems in traffic signs and air filters. The Bird's Nest is equipped with technology and products that include Filtrete Commercial HVAC Filters in the building's ventilation system to improve indoor air quality. Filtrete filters are designed to reduce the concentration and impact of harmful particles in the air and improve indoor air quality.

3M Volition Structured Cabling System will also be used throughout the Bird's Nest to ensure a secure computer network. Volition cabling enhances the efficiency of communications and is home to hundreds of sporting events.

'Hammer' time

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors: Jessel Tupaz and Agnes Alcaraz Sudiman

see lookbook Inquirer life every Wed (Globe) and SM (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Mabuhay!

Jessel J. Eppersoe

The pants and the pendulum

IT USED TO BE ALL ABOUT hemlines, or how many inches they should fall above or below the knee.

But these days, the pendulum has swung back towards the pants. Skinny or baggy? Cropped or flared? Low- or high-waisted? Tight or wide? Take your pick.

Instead of being obsessed with wearing the pants otherwise one don't excessively but (worse if it's not the most flattering cut for you), dumb ass all the options out there. The good news is skinny jeans have found company.

Style icon Rain Rhee has been spotted rocking the baggy pants. Looks like MC Hammer has not been relegated to pop purgatory — at least not his signature "Hammer" pants, which were popular in the early '90s.

Even Madonna, who turned a fabulous 50, has been seen in baggy trousers, which flatter her muscular legs. Rachel

THE PANTS 12

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Almost all credit cards say that they offer rewards. These rewards come in many different forms – some give points, some offer raffle chances – which makes you ask: Which reward is right for me?

BPI Express Credit allows cardholders to earn points for all their purchases with the Frequent User Privileges program. As with other credit cards, points can be used to redeem a reward of choice from a catalog. No luck, since the points don't expire. No hassle, since all items are delivered for free. The only challenge will be in choosing among the many items available!

But wait! In addition to the Frequent User points you earn, BPI Express Credit gives you reason to expect more rewards with Real Thrills, an instant rewards system that knows a bit more about you – where you frequently shop, dine, and unwind, how often, and when. So you can get the rewards that thrill you most – instantly, effortlessly.

Rewards that fit you

The excitement begins when you pay with your BPI Express Credit card. It's the first in the market to carry a Smart Chip that tracks your purchases so you can be rewarded with a discount or freebie based on your spending habits. Real Thrills is so smart that, the more you shop or dine at a partner establishment, the more thrilling your rewards will be.

Thrills for real

The best part is that you can get your reward almost effortlessly. Real Thrills automatically calculates your accumulated purchases and number of visits so you can redeem your discount or freebie instantly, no need to ask. Make it a habit to check your charge slip and see what's in store for you.

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And it does not end there. On top of the Frequent User points, the discounts, and the freebies, Real Thrills now allows you to get instant gifts no matter where you use your BPI Express Credit card. Spend as low as 1,000 pesos ANYWHERE and instantly get a Real Thrills treat.

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All meals come with a regular softdrink.

The pants and the pendulum

If the thought of baggy pants scares you, there are always the median alternatives—skinny flares or the wide leg

From page B1

...ellion has also jumped on the ...ank skinny trend, favoring tights and baggy tunics.

But if the thought of baggy pants scares you, there are always the median alternatives—skinny flares or the wide leg. This year, wide-leg pants, cut wide from the hips down, have made a big comeback, thanks to runway gods.

Wide legs are dressier, more versatile, and can be worn with high heels or flats. Pair them with highers or belted mules, to avoid a slouchy, frumpy silhouette. Skinny flares, also known as light boot, retain the figure-hugging form at the hip and thighs, but widen out at the bottom.

The zip/sack style, seen on celebs like Kate Bosworth, is an...

...other hot trend. Wear this with cuteness, however, as it may go the way of the baggy fathers. It's best to pair the look with striking, killer heels.

Of course, if you're still hesitant in your skinnies, there's the ultra-skinny version for you. It's heaven-sent for those runbw women who have wicks for legs.

Tuck them into boots, or wear them with stilettos to better elongate legs. Stilettos also get a shot of personality with prints and patterns, such as checks or animal prints.

Whatever your pants style, it's always good to experiment with a variety of cuts. Self-expression, as always, is key.

E-mail the author at gbalicas@inquirer.com.ph

Checkered pants

Cropped pants

'Hammer' pants

Leather or PVC pants

Animal prints

Photography Tom Epperson
Styling Jenni Epperson
Hair and makeup
Rouge Angeles for 'She Dances and Girls' Stylist Series
(tel. 393-9478/12)
Model Ria Bolivar
Clothes and accessories Zara

BLACK leather pants, gold printed top, white fur vest, white sneakers

BLACK cropped cotton pants, white flowy top, black garter belt, gray booties

PRINTED animalistic pants, sheer fabric up and cutout front top, black booties

BLACK "Hammer" pants with tank top, beaded jumped vest & black jersey vest booties

FASHION 101

The right frame, the right shade

by Jenni Epperson

WE WEAR SUNGLASSES FOR many reasons—for protection from the sun, for hiding our eye bags, or simply for looking uncool (the more interesting).

When it comes to design and style, we usually look up to some of our favorite Hollywood celebrities for inspiration. However, just because Nicole Richie looks good wearing saucer-sized frames in Stuff NY with a desk pair, doesn't necessarily mean they would look as fabulous on you.

Like clothes, sunglasses have to look flattering on your face features. Know what shapes of sunglasses suit your face structure, and what shade looks good on your skintone.

Pink punch. Ray-Ban Colorize 'Mean Girls' wayfarer

Oval faces

- There are more frames that look good with this face shape. As long as the size of the frames is in proportion to the face.
- It is safer to go with square shaped frames.

Oblong faces

- Round or square frames look best on oblong-shaped faces.
- It is better to get big frames that cover as much of the outer

BRANGELINA. The hottest couple on earth wears aviators

of the face as possible to accentuate the length.

Round faces

- Choose square or rectangular frames to even out the look.
- Frames one should get on those that are as wide or even wider than the widest part of their face. This gives the face a longer shape.
- To play down the roundness, select frames with straight or angular lines.
- Temples on each sidepark or bottom also minimize fullness.

Square faces

- Complement a square face with frames that are slightly curved.
- This will soften the angles of a square face.
- Make sure to pick rimless glasses.

Heart-shaped

- Square sunglasses are most flattering for this face shape.
- Else, aviator shades will

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Heart-shaped

- Square sunglasses are most flattering for this face shape.
- Else, aviator shades will

...weak green among many other styles.

- Stay away from wide sunglasses that will draw too much attention to a wider forehead.

Keep the following things in mind also when choosing sunglasses to suit your face shape:

- The edge of your frames should be a bit wider than the widest part of your face.
- Warm skintones look best in gold, tan or pink frames.
- Cool skintones look great in white, black and silver frames.

star style star style star style

SPOTTED. BC Concepcion in multicolored Wayfarer

SEEN ME Gutierrez wears the latest foldable Wayfarer

FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH

Do you want to wear Ninoy?

NINOY Aquino joins the ranks of Jimmy Hendrix, Che Guevara, Bruce Lee and Jose Rizal as T-shirt iconography.

By Wanggo Gallaga
Correspondent

SO THE YOUTH OF TODAY DON'T KNOW who Ninoy Aquino is and they don't know what he died for?

Well, he's going to make a comeback this year as Team Manila and the Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Foundation (BSAF) collaborate on the I Am Ninoy campaign.

The BSAF has given Team Manila the go-signal to produce limited-edition bags and T-shirts carrying the famous image of Ninoy's glasses. This is all part and parcel of the BSAF's goal to perpetuate Ninoy's memory and make his legacy anew the Filipino people.

"We feel we need to talk to the young people," said Bapu Lupa of the BSAF. And so, on the 25th year of Ninoy's death anniversary, as the first wave of its Ninoy Aquino-related projects, the foundation will release Team Manila's I Am Ninoy shirts.

Ninoy is back in fashion!

Proceeds from the sale of shirts and bags will go to the BSAF Foundation.

Unlike previous Team Manila designs whose Brazil's Sao edition T-shirts, the big graphic studio has focused on Ninoy's glasses. The new design is supposed to make people think: "What would you see if you saw the world through Ninoy's glasses?" asked Lupa.

Of course, yellow plays a prominent color on the shirts design to commemorate People Power I.

Watch out for the limited-edition Ninoy Aquino bags and shirts. Help keep the memory alive and contribute to the BSAF Foundation.

"Visit www.teammanila.com.

SEE the world through Ninoy's glasses.

TEAM Manila limited-edition "Ninoy" tees

(SMIRFORD) Olivier Tesán, Virgie Ramos, Marcos Gutiérrez, Derek Ramsay and Christine Bautista

Bright watch, big talents

THE RECENT LAUNCH OF Swatch's Fall-Winter 2008 Collection was graced by the presence of the brand's hot local endorsers.

There was Derek Ramsay, who is now at the Beijing Olympics as part of his "welcome package" from Swatch.

There was also Christine Bautista, who's set to play Tony, the male lead in the upcoming Filipino production of "West Side Story," co-starring female leads Jessica Angal and Kaelle as Maria.

BILLY Crawford with his original music for Swatch, "It's Time"

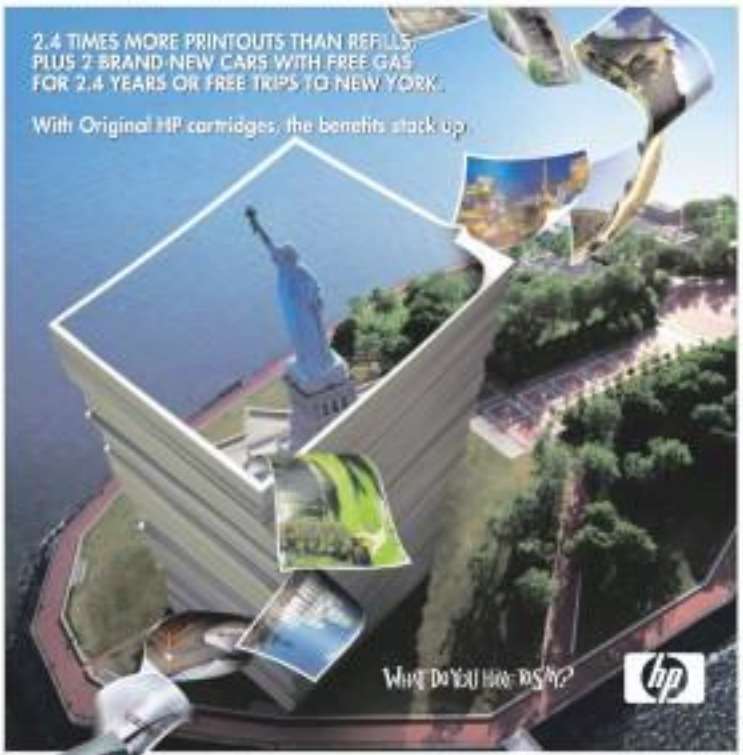
Erik Villanueva, who hosts for a year-long stint in Hong Kong Disneyland, and Marlou Gutierrez, who is off to pursue a degree in Theater Arts in Chicago, all added glitter to the event, which was catered by Margarita Rose.

These talents provided impromptu entertainment by not trained divas but Paul Mateo on the piano.

The Swatch family was complete with the presence of visiting Asia head Olivier Tesán, who is always happy to visit and renew friendships in Manila.

HAMSAY

QUICKCELL inspires everyone and sings "The Prayer" in Italian and Englishwith Christine Villanueva.



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Grand beauty fair

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE is giving customers a free makeover at its month-long beauty fair "All About Beauty."

There are huge price-offs on select cosmetics, hair care and health-and-beauty products, plus a chance to win shopping sprees and exciting freebies. The fair runs until Aug. 31.

Whether a woman is after a big makeover project, is on a night-out or a weekend family adventure, looking natural is the way to go.

Subtle-eye offers subtle browns, matte eye shadows, whisper browns and other colors inspired from soil tones.

● **Go green.** Teals, limes, celadons and emeralds matched with jade colors or orange eye shadows are great for any mood and occasion. Wear a sheer powder blush and try these in muted orange tones and whatever lip gloss such as key lime. These blend well with warm olive or a bright hint of green eye shadow. Top it off with citrusy or green tea scent and you're ready to party attractive.

● **Pretty in pink pastel.** Get your face blooms with shades of pink. Stay simple with warm fruity shades of pink just like that light, just-pinched doll cheek blushes. Use clear mascara and apply light gloss to enhance cheery lips. Pink, like its lavender makeup mix either your naughty or naughty side, but always brings out your femininity. These opens can accent comely or sexy persona mixed in a touch of whimsy.

● **Steamboat blues.** Strike a balance between girly and edgy with aquamarine shadow, midnight blue liner, opaque lipstick and sheer cheek mousse for a glamorous evening.

Both hot and dish-dataset seasons will look good in Robinsons's makeup fest for just the right touch of blue. Intend eye nuts a darker eye effect with a hint of deep blue eyeliner. Wear dish lipstick, fresh ocean lip-gloss and cocktail shirts in rich reads. Bright (aquarium, purple and spring) pencilers.

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Dusit Thani

When prices go up, go downtown Manila

By Jaime Ramirez
Contributor

FOR NOW, LET US look at the bright side of things. Times are hard, but you can be stylish at the least cost. For that, Manila is the place to be.

Downtown Manila used to be the country's shopping capital, from the early 1900s when Escolta was the prime business address and Avenida (Rizal Avenue) was prime commercial district.

Given the efforts to revive downtown Manila, from Quiapo to Hidalgo and Rizal Avenue, the city has become more pedestrian friendly. Sure there are bad elements, but even Paris has its pickpockets.

Rizal Avenue/Carriedo/Hidalgo

You can start your shopping at Plaza Lacson. Or stop and smell the flowers literally. The flower vendors in the square sell the prettiest roses at cheapest prices. I bought arrangements at Ilha Ang's stall for P150 per stem.

Hidalgo flower is a pinoy, sapher's heaven. Even supermodel Tweede De Leon-Gonzales, a budding photographer, resorts there shops for photography supplies.

Even architectural "ukay ukay" stores have sprouted along Hidalgo flowers, another sign that times are hard. I stopped up those pairs of brand new underwear meant for K-Mart/WalMart US stores (export overruns) in a stall that sold brand-new items. I paid P100 for three pairs, not bad.

SAMIDOL Swiss watches (above right) start at P5,000.

Carriedo is a shopper's paradise, similar to Divisoria. But one must look hard for good buys.

Thank God Gil remodeled its way first store into a discount outlet. One can shop safely in an air-conditioned environment for stuff that's 50-percent cheaper.

Rizal Avenue is enjoying a renaissance in terms of shopping. What used to be glitzy store chains of yesteryears are now big "ukay ukay" stores, with items ranging from Prada to Gucci.

Unlike the Baguio counterparts where the good stuff is separated from the bad ones, in Avenida it is free-for-all—one must patiently seek good buys. An ukay store in Tarlac and tollies/Mea, Euro-Japanese names to old favorite Tweety and Thomas The Train.

National Bookstore has renovated its Avenida store—all six floors in two separate buildings connected by a bridge very 70's a bookworm's paradise waiting to be rediscovered.

Along Avenida, the area stands offering local, imported titles give a welcome respite from the rising prices of magazines. Imagine getting

PHOTOS BY

SHOE bargains

SOUTHERN sugar baroness Minnie Lacaro Ferreira

POPULAR author Linda Puntilo

LETTY Tequila, Imelda Cajayon-Javellana, Offie Recto and Marcy Tuason

SOCIETY'S gang of eleven: Baby Cruz, Ising Madrigal Vasquez and Dr. Danny Vasquez

THE NEW ambassador to the Vatican, Cristina Cassano Ponce Enrile, and her pal from their St. Paul's days, the former Diana Hernandez Sarmo

LINDA Yu

CHONA Mejia Lopez

Despedida for Cristina

THE CLOSEST OF PALS AND FAMILY stopped to the sprawling residence in Nuvali in the Village of Sen. Antonio Ponce Enrile for the farewell dinner for the country's new ambassador to the Vatican, Cristina Gonzalez Ponce Enrile, daughter.

The so-called "Morado Group," led by Mona Hernandez Santos and Cristina's long-time pals from high school days at St. Paul College, were the evening's hosts, pulangaw.

Mona also arranged the catering by Ignatius Francisco's well-known sons, Shaker Skyline.

The honoree greeted her well-wishers warmly. She was her usual elegant self, dressed in a sassy Sanso-ing before the time to cocktail dress.

Since high school, Cristina and Mona have been friends. The duos of so have been gang mates all through the years.

Here's wishing our beloved Cristina all the love as she assumes the ambassadorship to the Vatican. Godspeed, pulangpid.

DAMIAN Jacinto, Christian Concepcion and Greg Pimentel

GORGEOUS boys. The new batch of Brazilian beauties dancing the night away at Sleepless

KATE Torralba, Luz Calzada and Ran Cruz

YOUNG PR master CP Reyes

DENISSE Oca, Stephen Ng, Bibo Martinez and 4 Below's Arjo Quintana

PAOLO Olbes, sister Andi Olbes and Terence Angeles

ROSEANA Grandcourt, Elaine Rinehart

DANG Puno and Rica Arce

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YKL Photo Solutions

Sleepless at Embassy

Embassy's phenomenal Saturday night concept, Sleepless, is now 3 years old.

Sleepless had been dreamed up by Stephen Ng, the music czar behind Evolucion and the Black White Revue, and the man who brought to Manila hot DJ acts like superstar Tiesto. He teamed up with his close pal, GP Reyes, the advertising, PR and events maverick, to organize Sleepless.

Now that the Tagaig government has relaxed its curfew law from 9 p.m. to mid-night, there are more reasons to enjoy Saturday nights. So our town's beautiful, hip and accomplished, young movers and shakers have been flocking to Embassy's fantasia happenings.

The third anniversary of Sleepless was sponsored by New Zealand's smooth 42 Below Vodka, natch!

42 Below brandist Rajiv Ghanasham said, "Our brand is recipred in the world's hottest bars, like Wet and Drop, in Hong Kong, in the Beverly Hills Hotel in LA, Bungalow 8 in New York, and Buddha Bar in Paris. We are extremely proud to be part of Sleepless fantasy."

Check out Sleepless every Saturday at Embassy.

Martinis' first pour

Maurice at the Mandarin Oriental turned a year younger and held a celebration whose theme relieved the Prohibition era.

In partnership with Grolsch, Maurice transformed itself into a hip nightspot of the 1920s and '30s, with silent films shown on the flat screen TV, dahlings.

Bar-catching flapper and cigarette girls were around the bar. Also seen were an Al Capone-like gangster, a policeman, and a gruff bouncer, who asked the invitees for the password before they could be allowed to enter the bar.

Guests walked past flashy vintage cars parked at Maurice' driveway. Whisky lovers lined the ramps to the restaurant.

With a fez (and like this, not couldn't miss one of the invitees who wore a seven mini skirt. If her dress was any shorter, it would be a collar, mwah.

While circulating, one bumped into a friend and hadn't seen in ages.

"Hey, you married now?"

"No, Maurice, I'm happily separated."

Ouops again.

Maurice Ayrsakfang-lund, led by Kat Syquerabe and Ewald Stueck, dished out cool blues, pulangpas.

There were superb wines and fantastic cocktail concoctions from Penny Trade International, mixed by Maurice' manager and mixologist, New York boy Jim Wichael delos Faenza, mayor-mayor.

Manila's Oriental's well respected GM Helmut Gaisberger, along with my favorite smile-inspirer Teresa Peters-Sahlen, sniffed off tons of prizes.

The first anniversary of Maurice was fun, soulful and low interesting.

Maurice, anyone?

Yes, dahlings. Just in, don't shake it.

GOOD friends Edna Concepcion and Mona Veloso

MOI and Mitos Grisaby

HANDSOME Oriental Manila's Sales Coordinator as Al Capone

YA TOAST to Maurice" with Manila's Oriental Manila's popular GM Helmut Gaisberger and vivacious Tessa Prieto-Valdes

HANDSOME communications advisers director Charissa Chanliau, Rosemarie Arenas, Tina Jacinto and Rupert Jacinto

LORD Archers, Raju Quintos and Chris Lorenz

VICKIE Perez De Tagle, Helmut Gaisberger, Clemsa Rivera and Mark Jordan

MIKE Bolt, Paul Ryan, Joyce Pinson and Joel Townsend

JUANCHO Cuenca, Amanda Lapid, Miguel Villaluisa and Carlo Samayoa

CORRECTION In the column last Tuesday, Aug. 19, a photo caption inadvertently identified James Yap as a Philip Kevin endorser. It's one with Kris Aquino, who's the watch brand's real endorser. Our apologies.

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Aber! Aber! Aber!

Aber is a Spanish colloquial word meaning "to prove oneself."

Aber P. Cardas

He would have turned 78 on the 24th of this month, but as fate would have it Aber P. Cardas – APC, or simply Aber to his countless friends in the media, the construction sector and colleagues in the government he served in his time – joined his Maker on June 27, 2008.

August 24 had always been a big day for APC. In a way, his birthday celebrations served as a measure of the esteem and friendships that he had continued to keep, and the people who had kept their friendship with him or women. The several of well-wishers that jammed his house at Loyola Subdivision in Marikina City early early evening of August 24 had not thinned over the years, even after he had been out of government positions for 20 years.

Aber P. Cardas (in dark glasses) had as one of his friends and contemporaries the late Senator Ninoy Aquino (seated, left).

APC left a huge footprint, as it were, in the construction industry as the foremost supervision implementer rolled into one of such Philippine landmarks as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Folk Arts Center, Philippine Heart Center, Light Rail Transit (LRT) 1, Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), UP-PGH Lung Center of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippine Plaza Hotel (Swiss), San Juanico Bridge in Tacloban City, Pamulapan Dam in Nueva Ecija and Pembrenza Marina, to mention only a few.

A hard-driving boss at construction sites and schedline freak, he was a softie when it came to the welfare of the workers under him. He was accessible to the landlady down the line, even drinking with them during off-hours.

A devoted husband, he was a loving father and doting grandfather and an unerring presence. It's no surprise that his family has yet to accept and adjust to their irreparable loss. He left behind his wife, Pilar San Andres Maralano-Cardas and four children who all accomplished in their respective fields.

At the height of the so-called empire-building Singa of the Marcos regime, APC got the nickname "Miracle Worker" for his "miraculous" ability to turn around delays in the implementation of First Lady Imelda Marcos and Smith them – down to the wire/work – by opening day or night. The "Magician Worker" accolade came from no less than the internationally renowned diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, who found it hard to believe that the construction of the Folk Arts Theater, which APC supervised, could be completed in 77 days. But finished the Folk Arts Theater, fresh paint and all, was just days before the holding of Miss Universe contest in the Philippines in 1974.

Yet, APC's "miracle" career started quite inauspiciously in college, the former shoemaker/boy was forced to transfer from Mapua to the National University because the latter charged lower tuition fees. And from there, with a degree in civil engineering as the main qualification in his resume, APC's first job was at a lowly laboratory technician of the old Bureau of Public Highways (BPH) in Lipao, Abra. It was 1956. The job description was actually a misnomer. His actual assignment had nothing to do with laboratory work, but since labtech was the only vacant position in the BPH plantilla, lab technician he was. In reality, he was on outdoor assignment all the time, building bridges, roads, bridges, waterways and other government infrastructure projects. His salary was P1,50 a day.

For more than two years, from May 1956 to January 11, 1959, the Kapangingan who was to etch his niche in the story of the country's construction industry toiled in the highways and byways of Abra.

His career began to roll when he was assigned to BPH-Tarlac as civil engineer aide. It was in Tarlac, that the man whom close friends and associates call Aber or APC, or simply boss by former officemates, and flashlighter by members of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH) press corps during his time, started to make his mark in the construction industry as a consummate "deadline beater."

Few people know it but APC was, in retrospect, a discoverer of the late Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Already a general construction foreman, Aber's stint in Tarlac coincided with Ninoy's budding political career in his native province. APC caught the eye of the young Tarlac governor when Ninoy requested him to report for the installation of concrete electric posts in Tarlac. The project was completed way ahead of schedule at a time when "last-minute" had yet to make it to the construction lexicon.

Ninoy was deeply impressed. The episode also started a close friendship between the two off the politics-bitten path. Meanwhile, APC's role in the implementation of other projects the hard-driving Ninoy wanted to finish in a jiffy expanded. APC's reputation as the man to call when project completion rates lagged behind schedule continued to grow.

His would later tell friends that he suspected that Ninoy had seen to it a good word with high officials of the Department of Public Works Highways Transportation and Communications. He noted that after his Tarlac posting he started getting tougher assignments and even tougher demands to get things done faster.

From 1956 to 1974, he navigated the positions as laboratory technician, civil engineering aide, general construction foreman, senior civil engineer, assistant district engineer, district engineer and project inspector.

Like Ninoy Aquino, then First Lady Imelda Marcos saw first hand, how APC adeptly maneuvered out of red tape, right-of-way, warring contractors and other problems that delayed projects. She liked what she saw in Aber.

Appointed as highways district engineer-in-large, APC was not bound by such protocols as the observance of office hours and scope of authority. Thus, he was able to supervise projects of the First Lady being implemented simultaneously in different parts of the country.

In July 1974, he was appointed acting secretary of the Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH), a huge leap from the lowly status of lab technician back in 1956. It was about this time that APC established himself as First Lady Imelda Marcos' "Miracle Worker," who made sure that all the regime's massive projects were ready on opening day or night. His promotion to No. 2 position in the MPWH he served since 1974) formalized his role as Mrs. Marcos' point-man in the implementation of her various building and infrastructure projects until the overthrow of the Marcos regime in 1986.

Out of the government for the first time after 30 years of uninterrupted service, APC continued to keep himself busy and his friendships warm. He put up a project management firm, A.P. Cardas & Associates, Inc. He also served as consultant of various government and private firms engaged in infrastructure and housing projects.

He remained an active member-elder light of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE), which counts with the leading lights of the country's construction sector like J.C. Cruz, etc. APC himself had served in various capacities as president, member of the board or advisor.

A taker and humiliator to a long line of young struggling engineers, APC has established a big following among civil engineers with the Department of Public Works and Highways many of whom have made a name for themselves.

In spite of all his success, Aber remained humble and selfless by sponsoring the education of his nephews and nieces. Most of whom are now successful professionals in their chosen fields.

An "orig" member of the Tuesday Club, APC was also a founding member of the Thursday Breakfast Club, which meets every Thursday morning at the Sonsabel's restaurant along Morato Ave. in Quezon City.

On the other hand, members of the Tuesday Club meet at the Shangri-La Plaza Edsa Hotel in Mandaluyong City. A close friend of APC's, the late columnist Art Borjal, organized both clubs.

Members of Tuesday Club come from the media sector, government and business those of the Thursday Club are predominantly media practitioners.

It is a tribute to the talent, kind nature, humility and selflessness of the man, his willingness to help people to mind that instead of losing friends after his (already) "miracle worked" days in the government service, his circle of friends even widened.

Cardas explains to the then First Lady Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos (left) the perspective of a building project.

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Get the Gwyneth look

PALTROW personifies "timeless elegance," according to Tod's creative director Derek Lam, in the brand's Fall campaign shot by Mario Testino.

DKNY satchel in crocodile (above); At left, Patrow has the calfskin version in camel. At right, the micro version, Oak Piccolo, $1,999

LOUIS Manchester Pelfs pumps as worn on Paltrow. Below is the Lulu ankle boot with hidden platform.

By Cleche V. Hurst

AN IMAGE OF GWYNETH PALTROW clasped in her Fa-vite Fall campaign of Tod's has inspired animal-rights activists, reports Reuters media.

Shot by famed photographer Mario Testino in Capri, the actress is seen in one ad wearing suede pants and a matchstick pullover with fur trimmed boots and a fox fur stole draped on her right shoulder.

Paltrow is taking over the British actress Sienna Miller, who was the company's face in last fall's ads. The leggy American is married to Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, who is widely known as a vegetarian. She is also a close friend of the designer Stella McCartney.

The Italian fashion brand's Fall collection is "all about luxury, reminiscent of the time of the American royalty," Pyun Ae-ie of Tod's Asia Pacific told at a press preview at Tod's, Greenbelt 4, Makati, this week. As expected, the collection is all about skin, skin, skin.

In line, the company released a different photo of Paltrow from the Testino shoot, confirming rumors of her involvement with the brand, following red-carpet appearances in Tod's footwear and engagement images of the Capri shoot. The photo shows the actress in quilted brown leather jacket, suede pants and the brand's star accessory for fall: a large calfskin satchel called the Dok, named after its doctor's bag shape. It didn't put as much bare as the photo with the fox.

Paltrow is taking over the British actress Sienna Miller, who was Tod's' face in last fall's ads

MINI Paisley Mini Cabrio in silver-gray

ACTOR Eric Dane, with wife Rebecca Gayheart, and his Paisley camel bag; directly above, brown version below

MINI Paisley for women in brown/Sasca Hobo and Sasca Phobo (right)

REVERSE Prange in light gray/leather

Long tradition

Founded in 1900 as a shoemaking company, the family-owned Tod's has had a long tradition of using Hollywood stars in campaigns. Actor Dennis Hopper showed Paltrow in a four-minute short film, which debuted in the recent Cannes Film Festival and will soon be playing on the Tod's website.

The "a day to the life" themed film has the Dokini bag romancing with the camera. A classic silhouette style with multiple pockets, it encourages the owner to take light spins with ele-

gance ritual, look for women and men. Pudhaya's famous owners include Brad Pitt, Patrick Swayze and Eric Dane, it also comes to mind stars for women, in metallic silver and gold, in hobo and backpack styles.

To contrast the structured Dok (which also has a mini-version), there's the casual and more affordable bag style called Reverse Prange (shown in the controversial photo).

Rare of the Tod's Ruhaian will be disappointed that there's no new style to come out for fall. But the Dokinicito is sure again scrubbed in a distinct, very fruitcake shape, in an all-suede/skin style named Pillbox Lacerito.

Likewise, the hooked styles satisfy, as pumps and boots—all with a button, circular hook—have re-called "hidden platform," as platforms, so the shoes are actually taller than they appear. The satin boots are evocative of imperial musicians—ride-buckled, hood-up or for ornament.

Controversies such as this aren't new, and more often, they only create more interest in the brand. Celebrity sells, more so if there's a bit of scene surrounding it.

When prices go up, go downtown Manila

From page D1

the latest Vogue or GQ for P200 (P600 elsewhere). And it almost 200 percent savings.

More of the watch owners from the Ivory Art of Arnaldo are 400 from. Selling mostly Seiko and Orient, some carry original and brand new Tag Heuer, Tissot, Oris, and other premium brands with lots hefty price tags.

I was able to buy three vintage bandas from accessory watches for less than the market prices. I am happy that friends upstairs think for a while, the research showed that Seiko was founded in 1878 and most of its designs are similar to Rolex's.)

For the foodies, there is great news—Manila Open Steam is reopening a seaside place on the lobby, a perfect place to cap a whole day shopping in downtown Manila.

Raon/Sales/Evangelista

Raon is an audiophile's paradise. Whether a perfect set of speakers or top-of-the-line audio systems, Raon has it.

You could build home theater from scratch and source the equalizer from Raon.

EDIFIER sound pods for iPod, bargain buy at P1,000

LINGERWEAR, P100 for sleep pairs

Sales and Evangelista streets are for sports enthusiasts looking for track suits, badminton or tennis rackets, boxing gloves, basketballs and even basketball ring mounts accessories or supplies.

There are several stores selling eyeglasses and sunglasses. I bought vintage Ray-Ban aviators with Brands & Lomb lenses for almost half the price. And those are collector's items since Ray-Ban now are already made with lenses by their Bausch & Lomb parent company.

VINTAGE Ray-Ban Aviators with B&L lenses

Escolta/Chinatown

Escolta is a historic place suffering from urban decay. It needs nothing. It could be revived, like New York's Meatpacking District.

Filipino designers who maintain their design houses in Manila are Tina Moreno, Ben Farolan, Jeanie Alonso, Mike dela Rosa, among others.

Ito Ito, the only place of interest in Escolta is the very popular beauty restaurant. There's also the opulent store Andronella and the photo camera store, Camera House, on Dasmariñas Street.

I was able to buy an Edifier iPod speaker docking system for only P3,000 (I got to save P1,000 more) retails for P4,000.

In Binondoon's Binondo area, gold is cheap. Stores sell silver and gold.

Chinese food is one of the places of interest for those into Oriental healing.

I'll skip the shopping paradise Ust and Tabahan/Divisoria because everybody knows the good buys there.

In these times of high prices, downtown Manila should be top of mind.

SEMI-KATES
In classic turquoise silhouette

RUCHED and tailored

RUCB dresses

PIPE with draw overlay

Ito Curata's dramatic vision

Curata's expertise, which Sharon Stone once cited for 'giving me the ass of a 20-year-old,' was again evident

FIGURE-FLATTERING gowns adorned classic

By Mac T. Vergara

INFLUENCED PERHAPS BY HIS long stint in the West Coast, Ito Curata played with contrasting silhouettes and volumes Tuesday afternoon to produce a 26-piece collection of updated cocktail dresses, swing coats, pantsuits and do signature red-carpet numbers in delicious fall colors ranging from currant to aubergine.

Strong colors—maroon, magenta and a swipe of pleated ruffles and lace. The look, like most of his menswear pieces, exuded elegance and luxury—to the tune of Wesley Capiendo and Thop-ing Concepcion.

Indeed, if there's one area where Curata enjoys an advantage over most of his contemporaries, it's his ability to define and cater to his target market—sophisticated and affluent women.

For the bold and daring, he had an eye-through sponsa. A maroon gown was reminiscent of the black ed are through number with matching silk skirt designed by Elle Saab and worn by Halle Berry to the Oscars some years back.

Curata gave justice to the bat-sleeved dress, again, through fine lace construction, from the strategic headwork that elevated the wearer's chest closer to the body, hugging it.

The impressible quality however, eluded him in spotted see-through, also a beaded piece with a brassiere-like. The gown's fit was a bit off on that one of the model's nipple pads showed.

"It was supposed to be worn by another model, but she backed out at the last minute," said Curata.

"Seriously there are few pieces I wasn't happy about, which I plan to change next time."

Produced by Inno Sicoia and Aja Dispoyo, Fashion Week's grand unveil for Manila, a ranged every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at the hotel's lobby lounge. Directed by Bobby Carmona, with hair and makeup by Bench Reyes, the ongoing series is sup-

A CREDIT
Between Maloney and Ito Curata

THAI silk number with "bikini-cut"

ported by Bria Hermida, Globe Astanjan and International Femme Vita.

"I drew inspiration from Argentinean tango music for my collection," said Curata. "It's all about shape and a lot of women clustered in a late night pizzeria."

Fumaia client

Before he decided to move back to the Philippines years ago, the designer had a fashion career in San Francisco. Among his clients was one-time reel beat Rhaini Stone, who were his dresses to high-profile show biz events.

The show was all about romance, glamour and a bit of sex. Curata would have none of the edgy styling some designers sometimes resort to in their runs amongst to conceal or make up for a weak collection. In contrast, his models were all dolled up and wore identical sponge bobbin and hair-extensions so look like glamour girls of the defunct studio system.

Without doubt, one of the afternoon's most noteworthy accessories was Curata's fe-nale, a floral-inspired strapless fuchsia gown with artificial rose petals clustered around the model's neck and back. Like those previously shown layered gowns, the designer's bib hooques was also detachable.

Curata was up the night before working on the bib. Judging from the audience's warm reception, all those sleepless nights he had spent trying to perfect his collection were worth it.

Luxury week in Hong Kong

MASTERCARD INCORPORATED presents MasterCard Luxury Week Hong Kong on Aug. 28–30 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Hong Kong. It will feature international fashion designers will showcase their latest fall-winter collections. An presentation of MasterCard Luxury Week Hong Kong, MasterCard provides its premium cardholders from around the region exclusive access to the shows. Its exclusive experiences as well as the opportunity to enjoy exclusive privileges at the wide array of luxury brands in Hong Kong. Its cardholders MasterCard cardholders privileges promotions are valid until the end of the year. Further discounts are also announced to cardholders in Shanghai, Beijing and around the region with further privileges promotions on hotels, travel and lifestyle, retail and dining outlets.

Going On

Free makeover
On Aug. 31, Penshoppe Katrina free makeover session for Filipinos at the Penshoppe flagship store in Ermama, Ir 6 p.m. Penshoppe Union of top makeup artists and Club Pen models will give stylish-ngest makeovers using Pop Beauty, Penshoppe's new makeup line. To start yourself of a free makeover, register at Penshoppe Stores open Aug. 31.

Join the Barista Cup
Nine baristi will again be given a chance to demonstrate their coffee-making skills as Allegro Beverage Corp. (ABC) and SM West Store hold the and Stores stage the final round of the Sid to and Barista Cup on Sept. 6 and 8 ahead Expo 2008 at the World Trade Center. A semi-final round will also be held at the same venue on Sept. 4. Judges include chefs Amy Ekan, Gene Gonzales and J Santillan. The winner of the Grand Barista Cup will receive a trip ifty P10,000, gift packs and excell-ver prizes paid to to Hong Kong to visit Rules 2008 at the Hong Kong Grand Convention Center. All qualified baristas in Luzon are urged to email at www.allegrobeverage.com or visit the ABC office in Ligtong Building, 2281 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Call 8171074 or 8175526 e-mail allegrobeverage@yahoo.com.ph.

Unsumi exhibit
Chef Sandoval Bandoo recently created unique dishes for Antung Asian Center and one of its exhibit celebrating "150 years of the Silk Route Table Dinners."

GRAND RELAUNCH
Billy and Charlie Tiole, franchisees with Rapido multiservice pioneer Jaime Ybana, and Fred Santarpio, Rapido operations manager, Rapido Auto Service Center (Manila Avenue Ortigas Center) hold a grand relaunch under new management. It held in "Pinas Lang Pwede," last Aug. 1-3. Visit its branch at Quiapo Commercial Center, 88 Florida Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City. Call 631 6997 or 0921-7432972.

Organized by the Glutamate Association of the Philippines (GAP), the three-day event featured an educational video on umami. The first of the planned series of umami exhibitions this year, which will be the third legal Ginebra, Makati.

Malu Veloso marks 47 years in fashion

MALU VELOSO NEVER INTENDED TO be one of Manila's most popular fashion designers. Her first love was actually baking since her father, National Artist Pablo Antonio, had a very warm mother and wanted a new dessert everyday. Her first enterprise was a bakeshop, Jogie and Spice on Taft Avenue.

But since her mother Marina E. Antonio was a couturier, Malu knew how to design clothes.

She created confections of organdy, lace and tulle for daughters Vicky and Leslie more as children's gowns. Other mothers took orders and began ordering party clothes for their daughters, too. From then on, it became a business and a brand name, the Malu Veloso children's dress line.

Being a mom loves herself, she often used pastel flowercrins, fine lace and tiebacks, taffeta and puffed sleeves.

Soon after her son Joey and Bonnie were born came her line for little boys. Malu would use pajaro and cotton for her layouts, and adorned them with smocking and her trademark tigerstrong, a type of Spanish style stitching not too complicated to do today.

She also began making baptismal gowns and communion dresses. Sometime in the late 1980s, Vicky Ongpin-Perlas, who was getting married, took fancy with Malu's bridesmaid gown. She asked that Malu custom her bridal gown after it. Malu did, and created her first wedding gown.

Since then Malu became the favorite of brides, among them Pepe Fernandez, Vicky Ongpin-Soriano and Grace Poe-Lamaisonere, daughter of Fernando Poe Jr. and Susan Roces.

Many of those who grew up wearing her dresses have celebrated their debuts, walked down the aisle, and started as godmothers—all in Malu Veloso creations. Malu now holds sway at The Podium (tel. 6353858).

"They still come to me asking for very feminine designs and silhouettes," Her fine embroidery and beadwork serve as accents for dresses in pink, chiffon and silk.

Malu's also busy running "Mi Modisto's Garden," the former residence of late painter at 2010 Zamora St., Ermy, which can be booked for intimate meals or events. Call 8518407.

On Sept. 20, Malu will celebrate her birthday and her 47th year in fashion with a fashion show at the atrium of The Podium, dubbed Nostalgia, It will showcase her designs through the sassy five decades.

Those who have photos of Malu's dresses, e-mail them to veloso.malu2006@yahoo.com. Call Letter Veloso at 9918.7022120 or The Podium shop, 6353054.

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KINETIX

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Dickies Girl

Present

FASHION X-PRESSION

in cooperation with SM

Schedule of Mall Tours at the SM Activity Center

SM Sta. Mesa	- August 22 (Friday)
SM Mega Mall	- August 27 (Wednesday)
SM North Edsa	- August 30 (Saturday)
SM Manila	- September 6 (Saturday)
SM San Lazaro	- September 13 (Saturday)

Promo Mechanics:

1. Fashion X-pression is open to all 18-25 years of age male and female fashionistas.
2. To join, purchase any participating eyewear brands (Eye Channel, Kinetix, Dickies, Dickies Girl from any participating SM Dept. Store (North Edsa, Fairview Cubao, Makati, Mall of Asia, Mega Mall, Harrison, San Lazaro, Sta.Mesa, Manila, Las Pinas, Bicutan and Sucat. Get an Entry Form from the salesperson at the Men's or Ladies' Accessories department.
3. All purchases made during the promo period (August 15 to September 15, 2006) are qualified to join the promo.
4. There are 2 ways to send your entries:
   A. You may send/ mail your colored photo (full body/ 4R) expressing your fashion style while wearing the eyewear that you purchased from the Accessories area of the department store. Place it in a white envelope together with the fully accomplished Entry Form and a photocopy of your receipt (OR). Seal your envelope and label it with the Promo title: "Fashion X-pression Search for the Top Fashionistas" and mail it to CREATIVE LAB INC at 2010 Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City 1605.
   B. Or drop by the Fashion X-pression Mall tour event at the Activity Center area, purchase any of the participating eyewear brands, go to the Promo assistant and fill in an Entry Form and attach the Official Receipt of your purchase. Afterwhich, you may proceed to the make up booth and then proceed to have your photo taken by our fashion photographer. Your photos will be attached with the Entry form that you submitted. (check out the Mall Tour schedule of the selected SM Malls in the posters and tent cards located at the SM Men's and Ladies' Accessories area).
5. All mailed-in entries must be received by September 20, 2006 to qualify. OR you may drop your entries at drop boxes during the Fashion X-pression Mall Tour event.
6. There will be a total of 20 winners (10 females / 10 males).
7. The criteria for judging are: CREATIVITY - 50% / X FACTOR - 20% / STYLE - 25% / PROJECTION - 5%
8. Prizes are: P5,000 worth of Gift Certificate from Ideal Vision, gift packs from Details worth P300.00 each and all of the 20 winners will be models for the grand fashion show (a must) to be held at the later part of the year (to be announced later).
9. The 20 winners will be selected by a representative from Interfashion, SM, Creative Lab and a fashion stylist in the presence of a DTI representative on September 20, 2006, 1pm at the office of Creative Lab, 2010 Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City
10. Winners will be informed via registered mail.
11. Winners can claim their prizes at 2010 Raffles Corporate Center Emerald Ave., Ortigas and should present a valid ID and the registered mail that was sent to them.
12. Prizes are non convertible to cash and non transferable.
13. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days upon receipt of registered mail.
14. In the case where prize exceeds P10,000.00, winner shall shoulder the 20% tax before prize is released.
15. All employees of Creative Lab, Interfashion, Details and participating outlets including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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FEDERALAND-ORIX

Trend alert: winged eyeliner

Big cat-like eyes are sexy, so now

ONE OF THE BIGGEST makeup trends for Fall 2008 is the winged eyeliner, as seen in different thickness and versions at the Christian Dior, Balenciaga and Bottega Veneta fashion shows.

Kelly Hu, Duke of the trade

Christian Dior was all about exaggerated lashes and liquid liner that seemed to evoke '60s icons Bridget Bardot and Twiggy. Balenciaga came out with striking black, thinly lined winged eyes that looked dark and intimate. And Bottega Veneta used purple to bring out a punky, edgy version of the winged eye.

For celebrity inspiration, look no further than the quintessential queen of retro, Amy Winehouse, who has been wearing the winged liner trend for years. Of course, a subtle version should be more suitable for everyday wear.

So stylists say this trend is, applying eyeliner can be intimidating. It requires a steady hand and loads of patience, so don't expect perfectly lined eyes on your first try.

Practice makes perfect. Using the eyes is considered one of the toughest makeup applications to master. Maybelline color artist, Ronald Garcia gives us a thorough guide to getting that liner on right, whether on gel, pencil or liquid form.

Practice patronizes! The basic rule is to apply the liner as close to the lash line as possible. Garcia suggests, "While applying the eyeliner, sit at a table in front of a mirror, with your elbows resting on the table to ensure you draw a straight line. Then tilt your head up, while looking down at the mirror. Doing this will make lining your eyes easier, as you have a clear view of your lash line."

Go minimal! Eyeliner that's applied too thickly may not look good on everyone, there's a risk of looking messy when it is overdone.

"You can always build the liner's intensity and thickness, but it is harder to correct it once it has already been applied," says Garcia.

BOTTEGA Veneta

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Why you should try going nude (lipstick)

Hot. V. Blankly are the nudes from MAC

Guess what Angelina Jolie loves

LAURA Mercier's Glamorous touches Angelina's lips.

THESE DAYS, I LOVE GOING nude—nude lipstick, that is. In fact, I think we should all ditch all the dark lippies we have in our kits or we won't swipe them on by mistake one drunken night.

Nude lipstick is a must? I've been wearing it try, but it took a long time for me to have the guts to ditch color for something more artistic, sophisticated and sexy.

See, that's what I think nude lipstick is all about.

It is true it can be very intimidating to go nude. Looking for the right shade alone can be tricky.

I asked some girls what shade they were wearing and I looked around myself, and I budgeted some makeup artists to share how they pick the shades they use on models for shoots.

The basic rule when picking nude lip colors is to pick a shade slightly lighter or darker than your skin color. Cooler shades work well for those who are pale. On the warmer shades if you have darker skin or what we call lupo-nanggit.

There's a great makeup trick! After maintaining the lips with a balm, brush on your own concealer on your lips as a replacement for lipstick. Then add gloss after. If this is too extreme for you, you add some light shade on top of the concealer.

To add dimension or drama, spr her gloss with gold or silver shimmer. This should make you look like a Cleopatra model.

Some shades are overwhelming faves of true models. Sis Alva glam 'K on top of which is added MAC Lipglass. The shade of MACiz Hot is also great, and I love that it is sheer. Because I am pale, I am also partial to Underage by MAC.

Some friends love Shimmer and order it abroad since it's hardly available locally. Laura Mercier's Diamond is also amazing. Very sexy, regalitos Julia loves it!

Another brand I love is Make Up Forever. Its Lipstick in a matte sepia shade that is almost 100-percent great for any skin color.

Nude lippies have suffered from a bad rep. Many say it makes them look dead and sullen. But if you find the right shade and use a blush that's closest to your natural color when you get flushed, it will make you look fresh and not overdone during the day.

At night, it will put the focus on your eyes. Believe me, it will make anyone look younger than she really is!

Rita Francisco-Prieto

Angelina in the nude

BVR Lingerie and her "sexy" shine

CHICK and Make Up For Ever's tango

Finding The Right Shade

Almie Mutiach

As a make-up artist, I am privileged to meet different personalities from all walks of life. Though it is by having a blue and pearl hair that makes us glow, we should also put an effort to enhance our physical beauty. I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on this to look our best everyday.

Choosing the right products can transform dull and normal skin into healthy and head turning complexion. When applying make-up, it is important to choose a base product that suits not just your skin type but more importantly your skin tone. Foundation can camouflage imperfections on your skin and if blended evenly, it creates a radiant, flawless complexion.

Thanks to a variety of technological advances, modern foundations are more far more than coat the skin. There are foundations that offer protection from sunlight which is good while others provide give anti-aging ingredients and moisturizers. Whichever base you decide to use, BE SURE to choose the shot SHADE and FORMULATION for your skin type.

The perfect shade of foundation should vanish into your skin without a trace. So I suggest that when you go shopping, don ever buy without trying it on. Make sure you have a clean, bare face and choose the shades that is the closest to your natural skin tone. Many makeup artists believe that yellow based foundations look warmer on all skin types. But if you're extremely fair, you can use base with pink undertones.

Tips: Never apply foundation on your hand or inner wrist instead apply small amounts along your jawline so you can be sure that the shade matches your face and neck to avoid looking like wearing a mask or worst, you might end up looking like lady in white especially in photos.

Thoroughly examine the shade of foundation and if possible, do this in natural or white light to reveal the person tone especially when applied on your skin. If you can't see any major changes in your color, then you found the perfect shade that matches you. Foundation can also act as a concealer if you don't have a lot to cover but for major blemishes and dark circles, don't expect to have the perfect coverage that you normally get from a doctor and pigmented concealer. Always remember the benefits your make-up becomes it serves more than its actual purpose.

Makeup artists will agree with me that foundation is worth an because it is the most essential tool in achieving a flawless coverage, it is important though that the tone and texture be customized to your skin. However, there are PLENTY of inexpensive foundations out there, just be patient in browsing the right product that suits you. Sometimes, we get overly excited and purchase an item in a jiffy. Remember to always test the product before you buy so you don't have buyer's remorse in the end... Be wise and practical because most of the time cheap price doesn't always equate to superior quality.

You can send your emails to almiemutiach@yahoo.com.

Zapping cellulite by carbon dioxide injection

CARBOXYTHERAPY IS A TREATment that targets love handles and double chins in men and saddlebags and bra line fat in women.

Originally developed in the thermal waters station of Royat, France, by a group of cardiologists, this method has been adopted by Institut Santral. As a replacement to an overall fat-loss program (which Institut Santral specializes in), CO2 can be used to any part of the body with no known secondary effects.

All it takes is a tiny needle (0.3mm in diameter) for the entry of CO2 into the subcutaneous tissue. Once injected, carbon dioxide, a natural daily by-product of metabolism which are soluble, spreads out to annihilate fat cells. This noninvasive method is said to improve local tissue metabolism.

A light tingling sensation may be experienced near the injection site. As a result of increased circulation, the area surrounding the injection site may feel warm for a few minutes. Though slightly uncomfortable, this procedure is nothing compared to other more invasive fat loss methods.

CO2's strong vasodilatory effect causes blood vessels to dilate, especially the capillaries in the area. This means more oxygen is absorbed because colder venous blood turns bigger and stronger blood flow to the area. The increase in oxygen eliminates built-up fluid between the cells. With toxins eliminated, edema is reduced, resulting in less fat and firmer subcutaneous tissue.

Softer skin, improved tissue quality and especially thinner target fat areas are results most almost after the first two to three sessions. But the most renowned long effect happens underneath, in the microcirculation.

To eliminate fat or cellulite, between 6-12 therapy sessions are necessary. Depending on one's cellulite quality or fat contents, sessions are carried out thrice a week. Sometimes two or even one session a week is enough, it season lasts between an hour and an hour and a half. With a healthy diet complemented by regular exercise, both fat and cellulite can stay away for years.

Institut Santral Inc. is at 22 Jupiter St., Makati City. Call 4033089 or 0917-8195980, or visit www.institutsantral.com.

THE BODY Shop asks:

Support companies that don't exploit their resources, the environment or animals

Isabel Reyes, Backstage Phot

Go for green, eco-chic products

A LOT OF TODAY'S BEAUTY products contain harmful chemical components or have been tested on animals. Thankfully, organic alternatives have also been produced, from anti-aging serums to all-natural eye liner.

Make sure you support companies that don't exploit their resources, the environment or animals to ensure their products. Browse through the label to see just what your product is made of.

Here are eco-chic individuals and their green products that you can check out.

Jason Thevenin & Ina Kelp Moisturizing Shampoo doesn't contain Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS), which is a potential carcinogen. It's eco-friendly because it's biodegradable and doesn't pollute waters. And because it contains organic ingredients, no pesticides were used. Also, it's not tested on animals.

Jhing sueh-hwanyuh (Yoga teacher)

Alba Botanical Aloe & Green Tea Oil-free Moisturizer is a great product and the company has a strong environmental commitment program. Dr Hauschka's Magic Soap is organic and is packaged in 100-percent post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Ub Natural Sunscreen is made of all natural ingredients and uses recyclable packaging. All products I use are not tested on animals.

Ginny Villa-Isaias

Burt's Bees Lip Balm has soothing organic ingredients that keep my lips moisturized the whole day, and Burt's Bees Body Wash has a subtle clean smell and hydrates dry skin the whole day. It gently washes with cleansers made from sunflower and coconuts, not with Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, which is a harsh chemical cleanser that strips skin of moisture.

Patricia Ramos-Cruz (Fashion designer)

MAC concealers go on smooth and completely erase dark circles. MAC products use recyclable packaging and do not test on animals. I also love using Body Shop Liquid Lip Color and Ruffleway Spray On Hair Conditioner. There's Body Shop Tea Tree Oil for those snowblower spots, and Body Shop Passion Fruit Lip Gloss, which contains organic extracts for moisture and shine.

Ric Romero (Marketing manager, Frondoso Inc.)

Clinique Makeup Remover is non-greasy and gets rid of all that black eyeliner. For that annoying blemish, the spot-on remedy is Clinique Anti-Blemish Solution. It's a skin saver and a cruelty-free product!

Jury Mead (Professional model)

BURT'S Bees balm

JASON shampoo

CLINIQUE eye makeup remover

Get that Dita Von Teese skin and look

SEE YOU MY CHILDHOOD idol of beauty personified: smooth, porcelain pink-white skin all over, carefully curled blue-black hair, deep blue eyes, red lipstick and a figure that was slender but voluptuous at the same time.

Watching burlesque goddess Dita Von Teese perform in the 20th anniversary celebration of the Cecil Medical Group was a dream come true for me. She was exquisite!

My Dita Beatrice will last me a while. She has inspired me to go back to working out and watching what I eat. Beauty wise, there are many inspirations around for those who want her look.

MAKEOVER 911

Ginny Salais

Hair

Take a break from the highlights and revert to your original shade of natural brown to black. The work involved is keeping dark hair shiny, soft and healthy or it will look like sawdust.

Tip: 1. Use a conditioner suitable for your hair type daily—normal, dry or oily—and clean it thoroughly.

Shampoos for those with oily hair are harder to find.

L'Oréal Professionnel Serie Expert Pure Resource Purifying Shampoo and Conditioner (P1,650) are great for cleaning oily hair as they keep scalp sebum levels. The conditioner also disentangles and hydrates without leaving hair limp.

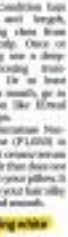
Also try The Body Shop's Tea Tree and Guava Clarifying shampoo.

2. Condition hair ends and length, massaging clean from the scalp. Once or twice weekly use a deep-conditioning treatment. Or at least once a month, go in a salon like L'Oreal Hair spa.

3. Revitalize Nutrigenesse (P1,650) is a night cream/serum for hair that does not stick to your pillow. It makes your hair silky soft and smooth.

Glowing white skin

Accept your skin limitations. Your friend's natural hair



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Zunic
slimming & body sculpting

Get that Dita Von Teese skin and look

From page E1

color is blonde, hence her glowing pink-white complexion.

Shing Asian, our skin tone is yellow-based so get the pink flush with blush instead.

Do not aim for white skin; aim for smooth even-toned skin which means going back to your newborn skin color which is never important.

1. Go for weekly body scrubs and follow them up by putting on whitening lotion. In the daytime, put on SPF 15 minimum.

For DIY body scrub, you may try the following: The Natural Source Green Tea, The Body Shop papaya, Lucky Chick sugar scrub in Glendarive white orchid.

2. If not pregnant or nursing, go for clinic treatments involving cysteine with blends like Belo's body scrub (to be administered by use of Belo facetrials like the soap and whitening body lotion). Tip: Ask your doctor or skin clinic if it offers this treatment and inquire about the package discounts.

Whitening

3. Glutathione - the master antioxidant that prevents cysteine deoxidize the body, improves eyesight, memory and sleeping habits. It is known best for its skin effect—inhibiting melanin production, resulting to whiter skin.

The fastest way to whiten it taking it via injection directly to the vein be double dosed **three weeks straight, then once a week for** four weeks, totalling 10 doses.

Those who are pregnant should not take them injection. But they may take the tablets in tablet form.

One glutathione in shower and it may take over a year for those with naturally dark skin to show visible lightening of skin (on others double the dose by taking three tablets a day).

At P1,200 **upwards per pack of 30 tablets**, glutathione tablet is expensive. But it's still cheaper than 30 glass which costs around P2,000 a dose.

Drinking plain glutathione tablets may not help whiten the skin because its molecules are too large and easy-breaker into the digestive tract before they can run through the rest of our body. They need something to "carry" them through the rest of the body like **Alpha lipoic acid**, NAC (N acetyl cysteine) and Vitamin C, which all serve to boost glutathione levels in the body. So look for glutathione tablets containing these.

Please (I love you) offering IV Glutathione. **Godive Skin Institute** (which has amazing but limited promos) and Hello Clinic (which offers a full vial of Vitamin C serves as booster), **making the glutathione work faster**, but of course, the treatment is more expensive—at P5,500 a session).

For Belo, call 8442059. The Natural Source is located at Southside High Street and Glendarive 6.

Godive Glowthione is available at Godive Skin Institute. Hello Clinic are available at Watsons and Boysie (4497702). Lucky Chick Salt Scrub is available at Beauty Bar Restaurant and Xtreme hair care products are available at accredited salons.

Trend alert: winged eyeliner

BALDHOMSA

From page E1

This holds especially true for applying liquid eyeliner. For a cleaner and more precise liquid liner application, brush on the eraser liquid on the back of your hand before lining your eyes. And if you want complete control, use the tool that makeup artists use—a thin slanted brush that is perfect for liquid liner application.

Be patient here: With example precision. Swing your eyes should be quick and easy.

"The trick is to apply the liner in sections while gently holding the skin of your upper lid. The three sections are the inner upper lash line, the middle upper lash line and the outer upper lash line. Using short strokes while taking your time ensures minimal mistakes. And if you are still apprehensive, draw small dots or hyphens to outline the direction of your liner and connect them," says Santos.

Be ready for mistakes: No matter how careful we are when applying makeup, mistakes happen. Santos' advice is to keep cotton swabs and eye makeup remover handy. And when you make a mistake, don't panic. Simply dip the cotton swabs into the eye makeup remover and use it to erase any messy lines or erase any mistakes. The cotton swabs can also be used to smudge the liner for a softer look.

Liner for your eye shape: Different eye shapes require different liner techniques, it is all about enhancing your eyes.

"Women with wider-set eyes can get away with thick but soft liner drawn on their upper lids, while big, round eyes can benefit from a well-defined line that is extended beyond the outer corner of the eyes to make the eyes appear longer. Droopy-eyed women can be given a lift by lifting the liner upward and outward before it reaches the corners of the upper lids. And women with close-set eyes should line the upper lash line while leaving the inner corners of the eyes unlined to give the illusion of increased distance between the eyes. For starters, when you're first drawing a dark line on the upper lash line while gradually thickening it at the outer edge of the eye. To widen the eyes even more, apply pencil liner in taupe or light brown on the lower lash," says Santos.

Wing it: Experimenting with trends should be **Real Practice** different looks and find out what works best for you. To get the winged eye right, extend both the upper and lower eyeliners to your desired length.

Finish off by applying a bit of white eye shadow on the inner corners of your eyes. And don't be afraid of color. Try liners in shades of purple, blue, brown and bronze.

CHRISTIAN Dior

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LIVING Stars

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

SHEENA HALILI

WHEN I'm home (in Pampanga), I stay in my room the whole day, listening to R&B music on my iPod or surfing the Net on my laptop. The entire room is done in pink, my favorite color. The latest addition here is an egg-shaped cotton chair. I don't have a TV set because I may end up watching all the time! I filled the room with my collection of Tarawy bird lamps and exotic jars that I bought in Malaysia. — Reported Sun Okayo in

2 GUYS AND THE BIBLE

Ariel Villasanta

For me, the Bible is the most important book there is. It's the only manual we have to... never sear's soul. I may become an accomplished actor, but in the end, what matters is what I invested for the afterlife.

Maverick Relora

I started reading the Bible after graduating from college. This is the best book I've read so far. It's the first book I've finished reading... Into Genesis to Revelation. It has changed me. I now find true blessed, as if I never had to search me but to get what I want. — Marinel R. Ofril

BOOKS

Debut, concert with all-star cast

By Phaik Soby
Contributor

KAMIMBOA AND KAPOSO stars recently shared the stage of the George Bernard Shaw Pavilion of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

"Hannah Hits 18" was really the coming-out party of Hannah Flores, daughter of multi-awarded musical arranger and musical director Hanno Flores. The debutante performed onstage with over 20 of her dad's celebrity friends and colleagues.

The hosts of musicians that took turns serenading the performers sent a enviable Who's Who in the industry. Louie Ocampo, Ernest Salonga and Mel Villena led an ensemble of 30 session musicians and 12 back-up singers, including

Gary Valenciano sang "Sa Close" as 16-gentlemen lined up to dance with Hannah. The kiddie-cal 18 roses had a cured twist, with the birthday girl singing 18 duets with as many celebrity male performers.

The 22-minute medley featured "ASAP 90" contestants Jed Madela, Mark Bautista, Christian Bautista, Kitc Santos, JR Mabee and Bernie Lung, followed by Side A's Joey Generoso, The Company's Nay Ocampo, Lulu Mejares, Kris Lawrence, Nyoy Volante, Arthur Nery and "SOP" co-host Ogie Alcasid.

Everyone cheered as Hannah took the mic. Then came the solo songs: Sarah Geronimo, Sitti Navarro, Mart Chan, Derek Al Quiros,

Duet with Dolphy

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4 BIG STAN
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 WALL • E: THE X-FILES
7 TOROTOT
8 DOBOL TROBOL
10 LOVING YOU

ERMITA

1 BIG STAN
2 DEATH RACE
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
5 LOVING YOU
6 DOBOL TROBOL
7 THE MUMMY: TOMB of the DRAGON EMPEROR
8 TOROTOT

METRO EAST

1 BIG STAN
2 WALL • E | THE MUMMY 3
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 LOVING YOU
5 DEATH RACE
6 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
7 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
8 TOROTOT

NOVALICHES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 TOROTOT
3 LOVING YOU
4 DOBOL TROBOL
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1 TOROTOT
2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 LOVING YOU
5 DEATH RACE

IMUS

1 LOVING YOU
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
4 TOROTOT
5 DEATH RACE

ANGELES

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 TOROTOT
4 DEATH RACE

STARMILLS

1 TOROTOT
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
4 LOVING YOU
5 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
6 DEATH RACE

BACOLOD

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 LOVING YOU
3 DOBOL TROBOL
4 MY SASSY GIRL
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 WALL • E | THE MUMMY 3

ILOILO

1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS
2 DOBOL TROBOL
3 LOVING YOU
4 WALL • E / THE MUMMY 3
5 A VERY SPECIAL LOVE
6 MY SASSY GIRL

ComicRelief

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ALLAN — BY JOEL ABERIA

TULDOK — BY PAWN COLL

FUSAO BARDO — BY MR. JURACK

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MAKIKOSMOS — BY JORGE TEJIDO

SALAMIN — BY DARWIN HDEZ

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATCHO AND WEBOY — BY LIRA GARCELLANO

LOVEHUNTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

BIKO MACHINE — BY PAMEL ABERIA

BEH — BY DANIEL SHELTON

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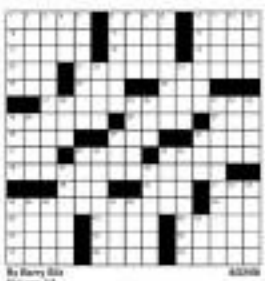
1 Tuscan title
5 Lawyer
10 Comic Fox
14 Adult male
15 Pieces of
16 Members of "Rebel Girl"
17 Lindt unit
18 Dancer
19 Beta Gamma's
20 Cantonese
22 Chinese menus
23 Pro's and/or cons
24 Work
25 Impressed
26 Penalty
28 Wonderful
29 Ancient
31 Deepens
34 Word before
36 Groan source
37 Cats in Prague
38 Hale, Farrow
39 Writer Tolkien
40 Unsatisfactory
rea
41 "El Dorado"
42 Future (n.)
43 Hindi saint
44 Hide unfamiliar
45 Unsuitable
47 Of kidneys
51 Sailor's urine
54 Kevlar
manufacturer
56 Opposite of
wears
58 Author of terms
61 I (Ital.)
62 Pro's and cons
64 Plymouth Lord
65 Tablet
66 Of service
67 Toward dawn
68 "Peter Pan" pirate
69 This puzzle's
theme

DOWN
1 Vader or Wool
2 You are
3 Vince Carter
nickname
4 "Ill Communication" rapper
5 Cinematic
6 Mac or Lacy
7 Mix
8 Mount of the Seven Hills
9 Draw back in
10 Jacob's twin
11 Landlord of
12 Peal, cause
13 Actor's name
14 Lavish gesture
15 Computerdom's
unit
20 Metal money
21 Ali-Star trick
24 Japanese Zen
27 Not limited to
cloth
30 Delicacies
32 Union's offering
33 Mischief-maker
35 Bo Nobles
Mitchell
36 Duty or role
42 Summer
Games org.
43 City near Hackensack
45 Physician Lanier
46 Ice management
48 Greek genius
49 Web
51 Roads
52 Go from 0 to 6
day
53 Cartoon cry
55 Posters on
57 Shore friends
59 Cascade's
sandstone
60 Snake killers
63 Lab breath
65 Elvis's sound



By Barry Silk
Mission, Kan.

8/22/08

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

FOR BORN TODAY: Inclusive, humorous, considerate and a fun soul, you have the chance to be a positive influence in life, yet you make discovery, heartbreak the price. You're loved by friends and family. However, because you're quite willful, you never mind taking individual risks or breaking rules. Actor Jeremy Irons (1948), singer Gwen Stefani (1969), and actress Jennifer Aniston (1969) were born on this day. You have a major change (date) about mid-year.

BIRTHDAY OF: Isaac Asimov, author; Ben Vereen, actor; Jeremy Irons, actor.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Hanna

6		5	3					
		9						
	1			7			3	
	7			5	8			4
			7		9			
9			6	3			2	
	6			2			8	
						9		
					1	5		7

DeMorgan's Level: ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	3	2	8	1	5	6	9
6	1	8	5	4	9	7	3	2
9	5	2	6	3	7	8	1	4
8	3	1	9	6	5	2	4	7
2	4	7	8	1	6	9	5	3
5	6	9	4	7	3	2	8	1
3	8	5	1	9	4	6	2	7
1	9	6	7	2	8	3	4	5
7	2	4	3	5	2	1	9	8

Rainy-day kind of guy

Actually, JC de Vera's collectibles look good on him all year round

By Raquel Sun Diego Jr.
Photos by Rudy Esperas

Perfect for smuggling up no on drizzly Friday mornings.

This phrase best describes actor JC de Vera and his collections. The star of Regal Films' summer offering, "Loving You," and upon TV forthcoming series, "La Lola," collects hooded jackets — the perfect gear for rainy days and nights.

He also stocks up on baseball caps, shades and scarves.

In a way, this guy's collectibles are good all-year-round: shades for summer, hooded jackets for stormy weather.

Although he submits to hoopdee-hooing (especially when it comes to baseball caps), he considers himself a frugal shopper.

"I'm very practical," he insists. "I don't like gadgets or toys. I prefer things that are useful and can be worn for a long time."

BASEBALL CAPS

Not just any cap would do for JC.

"I collect only dyed caps — those that don't have adjustable straps at the back," he points out. "Those are not available locally. I ask friends and relatives to buy for me in the U.S."

He has amassed quite a collection of authentic baseball caps from teams like the Los Angeles Angels and New York Yankees.

"I have around 30 caps," he admits. "Sometimes I wear a cap only once and forget about it. It's just in my room, lost in the pile." Apart from his Yankees caps, another flaw is Oakley. He says, "Oakley is one of the brands I love best ... ever, when it comes to board shorts and shades."

BLUES and wrists: A Yankees and new Oakley caps.

FLY! Oakley Rudy Project shades, white wayfarers from Brazil.

SHADES

When it comes to eyewear, he's partial to only two brands: "Oakley and Rudy Project." In terms of design, he's crazy about retro glasses. Some of the shades are gifts (like the white wayfarers from Brazil), but most were purchased with hard-earned money.

"The last time I bought shades was this summer, to wear on the beach or while hiking," he explains.

As far as shades are concerned, though, he's bound to pick subtracts-over-style.

"I'd rather buy one made with sturdy metal parts than plastic. They cost the same, at least P13,000."

HOODED JACKETS

His fascination for hooded jackets was sparked after attending a show of Diddy-owned Sean Jean's gadgets rappers.

"They look sexy (fierce)," he says.

BLACK Oakley

PREPPY Zara

JINDAN People are People

He has a preppy Zara and a rockier Oakley and has stumbled on good buys in Bugis Arc People.

SCENTS

When he was a kid, most of his scents were gifts from parents Rolando and Carmen.

Perfume is a tried-proof present for guys like him, he admits. "But some brands like Boss I'd rather test for me ... those just look good on the shelf," he continues. "Drug display-wise."

The fragrances he's gladly wear every day are Echo by Davidoff and Reaction by Kenneth Cole. Other faves are Versace, Mango, Sculptures by Nikos and Issey Miyake for women.

SHOES, SHIRTS

As for footwear, he goes for sneakers by Adidas and Nike. "That's because I'm into basketball and boxing."

He limits his shoe collection to 20 pairs. "When I buy four pairs, I dispose four old ones," he says. "I either sell or give them away to relatives."

Same goes for clothes and shirts, he says. "(Other sponsor) Bench usually sends over 10 to 20 shirts and five pants and shorts a month," he says. "I make sure I have room for new clothes."

Spoken like the practical guy that he is.

E-mail: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com

EVERYDAY scents are Echo by Davidoff and Reaction by Kenneth Cole.

Debut, concert...

From page F1

and Philippine showbiz's grand daddy himself, Dolphy.

Martin Nievera sang a new composition he co-wrote with Hannah for Hannah. Sharon Cuneta, after rendering a song, shared the story of how Hannah's dad and mom Bocky met and fell in love on the set of her weekly show on Channel 13. Sharon says she shows's MD and Bocky, a fresh college graduate, was on the production staff. When the show moved to ABS-CBN, Bocky resigned from RG 13 to be a full-time production assistant and Sharon's personal bodyguard.

There were singing clips that evening, too. Kuh Ledesma, Rachelle Ann Go and Wag Guanzon-to sang a medley with Hannah.

SINGING debutante Hannah Flores

Pops Fernandez, Victor Wood and Regine Velasquez sang another medley of (unpublished) songs to serenade the other birthday celebrant, Ricardo Reuperas. Hannah's maternal Ada, who turned 75.

Other performers were Ciara Sotto, Gab Valenciano, John Prats and Joseph Bisenguel, who danced a rousing hip-hop number with Hannah's siblings, Becky and Meredith.

Hannah's fellow "kumpare mmm-bers performed excerpts from "8 High School Musical 3."

The real star of the night was Hannah, who showed her guests with her crystal clear voice, pitch-perfect singing and engaging performance. More than a debut, it really was a coming out moment.

DAD Hanson is musical director at daughter's coming-out party.

FROM THE TOP: Regine Velasquez, Vernie Varga, Pops Fernandez, Ahmni, Gary V sings for Hannah's first dance. For right, Hannah's mom Becky with Rose Curtis, center, and MAU SE.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie D. Velarde

CHEER FACTOR

Stay cool, Yeman

BICOLANA ON BROADWAY

Emily Bo Jasmico-Morales considers her self lucky to be in the cast of the hit revival of "Jesus Christ Superstar." She gets to act with "ridiculously talented" co-stars—onstage and even A-listers like Pierce Brosnan (right) off the show. Which of her celebs has always backstage? P/S4.

LOS ANGELES—IN A RECENT interview, Woody Allen was overheard to candid about directing love scenes the think watching them "unromantic," even if they involve hot blonds in—and off screen couple Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, and Scarlett Johansson). Interviewer Mariel Hemingway asked how Soon-Yi Allen remains and his own belief that great sex includes that.

Woody spoke to us not in his beloved Manhattan but here in LA, which he famously described even as having the greatest comedians to Antonioni (ALRIGHT, I exercise our right to make a right turn and light). He was true his a month to direct an opera for the first time. Yes, El Lay does have culture — see last film Placido Domingo exercises such productions as director of the Los Angeles Opera.

Looking considerably older than the last time we talked to him on the set of "Cassandra's Dream" in England, the octo-octo-director was quiet, appeared frail and kind of leaning. But he was still very alert, like the intellectual "wisenerd" persona he has honed to a keen since the 1960s.

The true American genius, whose last two films, "Scoop" and "Cassandra's Dream" are considered dismal failures, is back in fine form on "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." In this, his fourth and most recent film shot away from New York, Woody serves up an engaging romance-comedy drama set in Barcelona with the splendid Hooks and acting-wise trio of Penelope, Javier and Scarlett. He

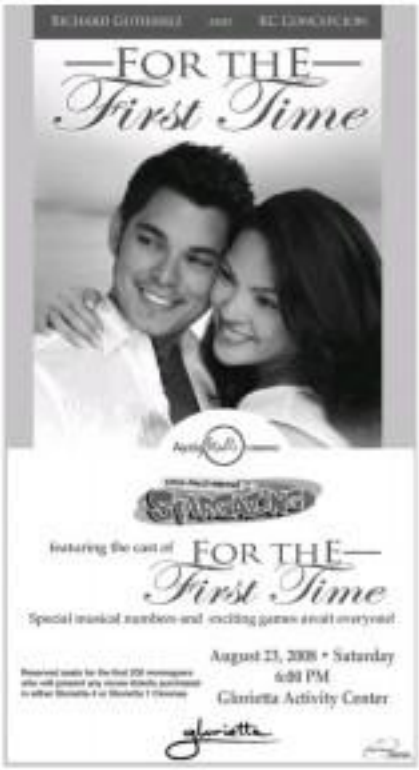
STORY 5A

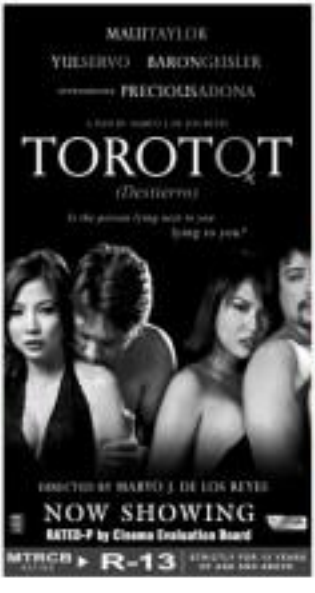
ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Mahren V. Nepales

...even those that involve Scarlett Johansson, Penelope Cruz, Javier Bardem

WOODY Allen's (right) "Vicky Cristina Barcelona" stars what could be the hot love triangle in recent cinema (from left Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz and Scarlett Johansson).





Treachery in

By Oliver M. Palmeiloti
Contributor

THE STRIPED STOOL will finally return to theater the adventures of yet another supernatural force in "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor," the third in a successful series of action-adventure movies. While the latest installment departs from the series' direction, it still manages to follow its predecessors' formula. It lacks panache and humor, and doesn't feel as sweeping or grandiose, and shows excitement only sporadically.

It's more insidious than usual, in the sense that its protagonists seem more reckless and unthinking during big fight scenes. Sure, "The Mummy" has always been about frenetic Rollerdb and loud, cinematic showdowns, but it somehow feels like it's just a bunch of unaffecting action scenes strung together. These sequences also generally feel too outdated, one of the few major ones even finally ends up in fireworks.

New Mummy

There's a new Mummy in town. The legendary Chinese Dragon Emperor Qin Li, according to the creative benevolence, was a demon, greedy, wanderking who commanded myself mummy over the elements. Desiring immortality, he creates a concoction (Michelle Yeoh) to end the spell. The concoction but he runs, so he viciously ends the relationship between the sorceress and his own ancient general (Russell Wong). But the resurrection Emperor finds himself double-crossed and magically frozen. He starts using his power to control his former army against the world.

Several interesting, funny, right point to an end to their unwanted imprisonment. The escape of the Emperor seems inevitable, but he's unaware that he's about to cross path

REMEMBER HER? Linda "Blue Rayne" Burciaga accepts the Trailblazer of the Civil Rights award in Pasadena, California Aug. 17. The Natural Comedy Lia Rayne gives out the awards to outstanding Latino artists in achievement in television, film and music.

BRENDAN Fraser plays the rough and devil-may-care Rick in "The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor."

terra cotta

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X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE – PG13	STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS – G	DEATH RACE – R13

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AT THE CINEMAS

THX

GLORIETTA 1	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE	3 LOVING YOU	4 TOKYOTOT
GLORIETTA 4	1 WALL-E	2 BIG STAN	3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	
	4 THE X-FILES	5 SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE	6 DEATH RACE	7 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN
GREENBELT 1	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
GREENBELT 3	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
	3 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	4 WALL-E	5 BIG STAN	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	2 DEATH RACE		
	3 BIG STAN	4 YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE ZOHAN	5 WALL-E	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DEATH RACE	2 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	3 WALL-E	4 LOVING YOU
MARIKETI MARIKETI	1 DEATH RACE	2 BIG STAN		
	3 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	4 TOKYOTOT	5 LOVING YOU	
TRINOMA	1 DOUBLE DRAGON	2 LOVING YOU	3 BIG STAN	4 TOKYOTOT
	5 WALL-E	6 STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS	7 DEATH RACE	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Shopping Net: One card (4 FOR THE FIRST TIME. Meet & greet KC Concepcion, Richard Gutierrez & many more. August 22, Activity Center
GREENBELT	AYALA MALLS presents world class dive: LANE MANLUCHIA. August 23, 3PM, Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Mecas Exhibit. August 23 - 24, Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Amazing Shopping Challenge. August 23, Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	FIVE DAYS 10 MILLIONAIRES LIVE SHOW. LIVE INTERACTIVE FAMILY GAME SHOW HOST & GUEST. August 22, 23 & 24, 1pm, 3:30pm & 4pm, Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's MULAN Jr. August 8 to December 13, 2008. For details, call 8555775 or log on to www.repertoryphilippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	Youth Lover: Selected Paintings from the BPI Collection on view until Aug 31. For details, call 757-3486 or 757-7117 or 811-9248 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org
Tri Noma	Last Mokaccha Live. Aug. 22, 1pm, Activity Center. Eight Picks: Eight Fashion Picks from Young Designers. Aug. 29-Sept. 6, 4th Level Cinema Lobby

Ayala Malls Cinemas
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Bicolana on Broadway

By Raquel San Diego Jr.

EIRIE BRENDICO-MORALES DESCRIBES herself as "200 percent Filipina."

The New York-based singer-actress related to us e-mail to Inquirer Entertainment: "I grew up in a little town, in Essex, Connecticut, studied at the Philippine High School for the Arts and UP Diliman. I speak Filipino and Sorsogon fluently."

Eirie is a long way from Broadway, where she is now in the cast of Lincoln Center's revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "South Pacific."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Musician since Ellen Robinson informed boy-next-door entertainment about the petite Pinay's achievements.

"I've been with the company since January and I'll be with them to the next few months," said Morales who's in the ensemble and is the understudy for the Liat role.

Bonus

"Surreal," she said of her Broadway debut. "Never thought it would happen. It's a dream come true."

She's part of interesting with the cast every night, she said. "It's such a treat; they're ridiculously talented actors and great people as well."

As bonus, she gets to watch and listen to one of her idols, Beth Critton who plays Nellie Forbush.

"I've been obsessed with Kelli ever since I heard her glorious voice on the The Light in the Piazza CD," she noted. "She is truly an inspiration."

Her color adds an Lea Salonga and Joanna Ampil, fellow Pinays who made it big in international theater.

She works with another Pinay on the show, Loretta Ables Sayre, who portrays Bloody Mary. "She was born and raised in Hawaii," Morales said.

Every night, she gets to see stars in the theater, too. "I always see a lot of famous people in here too."

It's a "long list of A-list stars," she reported: Nicole Kidman, Steven Spielberg, Sting, Richard Dreyfuss, Lloyd Webber, Claire Danes, Stanley Tucci, Glenn Close, Barbara Nelson.

She actually met Steve Kramer, Rachel Miller, Pierce Brosnan, Bernadette Peters, Jason Alexander, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton.

"It was exciting," finally recalled. "I **was speechless [in their presence]."**

Doing the show is both professionally and personally enriching for this Pinay. "During rehearsals, we met with several leading ladies of Act II over lunch. **They shared with us their stories** — some funny, others sad, tragic. It gave us a glimpse of the real South Pacific." Kristy's favorite songs on the show are "Younger than Springtime" and "I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right Outta My Hair." The "Happy Talk" scene she described as "heartbreaking."

Not easy

She admitted that it's not easy for Filipinos on Broadway. "Roles are limited. Once in a while, shows like 'Lea Salonga' call for more traditional casting. But usually, there's only one Asian in the ensemble, if there's any at all."

Morales moved to the US four years ago. She said she misses her family and Pinay food, especially "Mary's fried chicken, pochero, balado, ginger pork and sweets from Red Ribbon and Goldilocks."

However, she said, "I don't miss the politics and traffic."

(E-mail: inquirerentertainment@inquirer.com)

DIANE Keaton is among the A-listers who have watched Eirie perform.

Woody has lunch while directing love scenes

From page C1

Scarlett Johansson, Rebecca Hall, Patricia Clarkson and Chris Messina complete the cast of Woody's humor-tinged musing on fidelity, chemistry and love.

Asian women

Since this was his fourth film in Europe ("Cassandra's Dream," "Scoop" and "Match Point" were set in England), Woody was asked about his opinions of European women. He answered, "In the past, there was never any difference [among] cultures, since or anything. If a woman was attractive and interesting, she was. If she wasn't, she wasn't. It didn't matter if she was American or French."

He continued, "But for some inexplicable reason, some years ago, I started to get a craft in Asian women. I find Asian women very, very attractive. If someone had told me when I was younger that I would be married to an Asian woman, I would have said, 'That's very unlikely. She's too smart.' Because all the women I never met with were Caucasian from New York. They were actresses, writers or something."

Asked if he was living his dream, **the septuagenarian answered:** how fortunate he felt to be married to Soon-Yi, 37: "I never imagined that I was going to be the father of two children with an Asian woman who is many years my junior, who is not in show business and doesn't have equivocalness big interest in show business. I didn't dream of this; it came serendipitously and it has been great. I've been married 10 years and it has been unmitigated."

Woody's comment once comfortable talking about his relationship with Soon-Yi, the revelation of which sparked a controversy in the 1990s. Soon-Yi, a Korean native, was adopted by **Mia Farrow while the actress** was married to conductor Andre Previn. Woody and Mia broke up when he admitted his romantic involvement with her adopted daughter.

'Unromantic time'

Woody's comments on directing love scenes came up when we asked him to comment on actress Hayley Atwell's reading pressed scenes **almost doing nude scenes in "Cassandra's Dream."** The British actress said that, while she and Ewan McGregor were at it, Woody was eating a tomato sandwich, spitting seeds on his shirt **and scooping slices the resulting** mess. Woody smiled and said, "When you are in the process, it's one thing, but if you are there on the set when we do it, it's very bland and professional. The actors come in. People hang the lights. There's a crew around. Then we say go and the actors do their thing. You're thinking, are they going to say hey they going too short? Is her hair bleaching her face? Is there a shadow of the microphone or something? It's a very unromantic time then! I usually am in catch up on my acting. Then when it's finished, someone says, 'Okay, lunch' (laughter) and everybody goes in different directions."

Dinner and sex

Javier, playing a flirtatious artist who proposes a weekend of gourmet dinners and sex in two American cities, Scarlett (Cristina) and Rebecca Hall (Vicky), has such scenes with these actresses. Woody said of Scarlett, his current film muse (this is their third film together): "Scarlett has everything — she's beautiful, sexy, a great actress, smart and amusing. She can do anything. In my opinion, she has an Ironi. I would always consider her for any part ... to a movie of mine. She creates a very good atmosphere on the set."

This film belongs to the two Spaniard thespians, however. There is some truth to the observation that Penelope can't see when she speaks in her native tongue. The actress, playing a volatile and emotionally unstable painter, speaks partly in English in the film. She and Javier are fun to watch as a bickering couple, especially when they argue fiercely in Spanish.

Spanish lines

Woody, who still writes his scripts on the same portable Olympia he's had since he was 14, told us during an interview about the two theaters speaking in Español. "I always encourage my actors to improvise," he began. "It will sound gross, I will thank Javier and Penelope were improvising all over the place in Spanish and I don't speak a word of Spanish (laughter). I had no idea what they were saying. They were acting up a storm but [with] their body language, their faces and expressions, they were getting the point of the script across. It wasn't until I was in New York editing the picture when I brought in a person to do the subtitles that I asked, 'What are they saying?' The person explained that they were right in the ballpark of the script."

> 'I encourage actors to improvise. So Javier and Penelope were improvising all over the place in Spanish. I had no idea what they were saying'

Javier's character says that if any element in his life is missing, it can affect him greatly. Woody was asked **what was missing in his own life.** "Oh, greatness," he quickly replied to laughter. "It has bothered me for years that I have been lying. I've made many films and I keep trying. **Your greatness always eludes me.** It's very bothersome."

When we interjected that he is great, Woody answered, "Oh well, don't stop now." With films like "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan," Woody ranks as one of the greatest American directors in our book.

Achieving greatness

When asked to elaborate on his belief that "true greatness" eludes him, Woody said, "I would rather be able to get lines loud at night thinking, if I die tonight, I've written some pretty movies [as a festival alongside those of Fellini, Kurosawa and Bergman. But I don't feel I have anything that I could point up there if there was that kind of festival. But I have come to terms that this is never going to happen. I've only myself to blame because, from day one, I've had complete control over all my pictures. No one has ever told me what to do, when to cast. No one gets even my scripts. So I have to accept it."

Woody also misses those days when he was the romantic lead in his own movies and acted opposite a long list of beautiful, talented actresses. He admitted, "I don't like it when I see people playing scenes that I would like to play (laughter) but there's nothing I can do about it. If I wrote a script and there was a very good part in it for me, I would do it, but at this point, I am not going to play the romantic interest in a film. I'm going to **play a lovable old grandfather, some** absent-minded college professor or some decrepit backstage at the theater or some part like that, unless I come up with something great for myself but it's not going to be romantic lead."

He continued, "It's a terrible feeling. It's like when I see the baseball players and I think, I used to be able to do that. I could run down those fly balls, hit the ball very hard and all that. Now, I can't. It's a feeling worse than not being able to play the lead."

First opera

Well, at least he can say that at 72, he directed his first opera. He will tackle "Gianni Schicchi," a third of Puccini's trilogy of one-act operas. (The other two will be directed by another filmmaker, William Friedkin.) **Showing some warmth at the Music Center** in downtown LA.

Talk about: Bloglr," he declared, referring to his opera directorial debut. "I've never directed an opera. I've never directed [one however that solo]. I've only directed my own one-act plays. I've never directed anybody else's work. I threw no optimism for it but I'm friendly with one of the men on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Opera. He's been asking for a long time if I would direct an opera. Placido Domingo and I have talked on many occasions over the years about **me doing an opera.** So this summer, I might be able to do it. This is not kids or something with an elephant onstage. There are one-actors and the point of this is comic. Billy Friedkin, the wonderful movie director, is doing the first two and he is a legitimate opera director. He's quite good at it.

"I'm doing only the last one. It's a 60-minute bathroom opera. It doesn't have a large cast. The only thing that bothers me is that, unlike in the movies, in the opera, the audience hears if they don't like it. That's something I've never experienced before. But I've certainly been booed from a distance (laughter). I'll give it my best shot; I hope Puccini's work is so strong and indestructible that I can't screw it up."

E-mail the columnist at rsanjr@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Napoles Report," at http://blogs.inquirer.net/napolesreport.